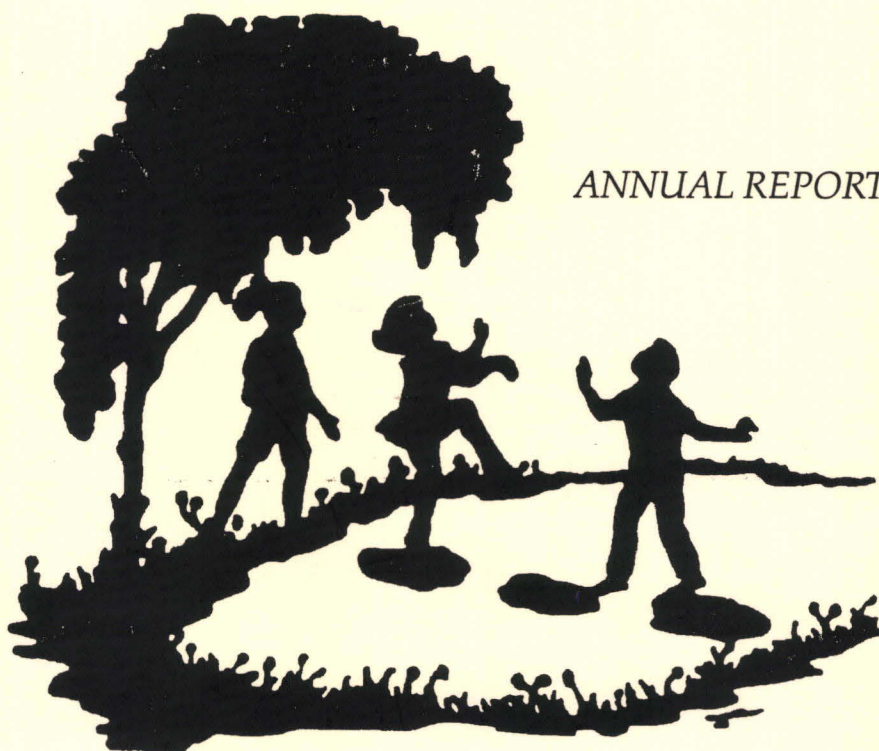


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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW



ANNUAL REPORT - 1994-95

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW

1994-95 ANNUAL REPORT

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever does." Margaret Mead*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Historical Development	1
Statutory Authority for the Agency.....	3
1994-95 Recommendations to the General Assembly.....	5
Status of 1993-94 Recommendations to the General Assembly	8
1994 Analysis of Statistical Data Regarding Areas of Concern and Delays to Permanence	15
1994 Demographic and Comparative Data.....	27

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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In the early 1970's in South Carolina, many child welfare professionals and citizen groups began advocacy efforts on behalf of children in the foster care system. These efforts resulted from their concern over the plight of the child adrift in the foster care system. The ultimate result of these efforts was the establishment of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System in 1974, one of the first such organizations in the nation.

Six major private organizations between 1970 and 1974 spearheaded the initial efforts to obtain permanent homes for children in foster care. These organizations were the American Civil Liberties Union, the South Carolina Council for Human Rights, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the Midlands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the South Carolina Youth Workers Association and Helping Hands of Aiken County. Child psychiatrists, child psychologists, social work professors, law professors and various church leaders also participated as private citizens to help give direction to the project.

Research to document the condition of foster care in South Carolina was a primary focus of these organizations. Four studies were done in cooperation with Representative Carolyn Frederick, Vice-Chairperson of the South Carolina General Assembly's Study Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters Pertaining to Children. The results of these four studies showed the following:

1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the children in the Department of Social Services foster care program would neither return home nor be adopted under the existing system. Services were not being provided by the system to the parents to facilitate return home and no efforts were made to free many children eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute.
2. A survey of fourteen private and three public institutions, formerly known as orphanages, showed that the Department of Social Services placed 43% of the children while private placements accounted for 57% of the children placed. Some 20-50% of these children were eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute; however, none of these institutions stated that adoption was one of their services. In addition, most of these institutions offered no services to families to enable return of the children home.
3. Forty-three percent (43%) of the children in foster care had been in two or more foster placements and eighteen percent (18%) had been in three or more.
4. No method existed to keep track of children in foster care. The courts expressed concern about children being lost in the system. Even when children were freed for adoption, the courts had no way of knowing if the children had been placed adoptively.
5. The cost to taxpayers for keeping children in foster care was growing steadily with no resolution in sight.
6. Children were suffering irreparable psychological damage as victims of foster care drift.

The findings from these studies clearly indicated the need for a system to monitor the cases of children in foster care to achieve appropriate permanent placements for these children.

Thus, a statewide foster care review board system was legislated by the 1974 General Assembly. In March of 1975, Governor James Edwards, by Executive Order, established the Office of Child Advocacy as a division of the Office of the Governor. This Executive Order charged that the Office of Child Advocacy establish and coordinate the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and act as ombudsman on behalf of the abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children of the State. The initial funding for the Review Board System as part of the Office of Child Advocacy was shared by the State and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

The Children's Foster Care Review Board System was fully funded by the General Assembly as a separate state agency in 1977. The Office of Child Advocacy existed as a program of the Review Board System until 1980, at which time it was returned to the Governor's Office. While a part of the Review Board System, the Office of Child Advocacy conducted an ombudsman program for children in general and a training program in the prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect for hospitals and other organizations upon request.

In 1985, the Review Board System was placed under proviso legislation in order to restructure and reorganize the Agency. Permanent legislation and regulations passed by the General Assembly in 1986 restored the Agency to permanent status. South Carolina state government restructuring in July, 1993 returned the Foster Care Review Board to the Governor's office as a separate division under the Office of Executive Policy and Programs.

The Division of Foster Care Review is currently comprised of a staff of twenty-one serving thirty-five Review Boards across the State. The Review Board System reviews the cases of approximately 5000 children in foster care twice annually, statistically evaluates the state of foster care in South Carolina and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and child caring facilities as outlined by South Carolina law.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY

Sections 20-7-2376 *et seq.* of the South Carolina Code of Laws create the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and establish the Division to administer case reviews as follows:

I. State Board for Review of Foster Care of Children

The Division is supported by a State Board which consists of seven members, all of whom must be past or present members of a local Review Board. There must be one member from each congressional district and one member from the State at large, all appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the State Board serve four year terms and until their successors are appointed and qualify. A chairperson is elected from the membership of the State Board for a two year term.

The State Board is responsible for:

- a. the promulgation of regulations, upon recommendation of the Division Director, pursuant to the provisions of South Carolina Code of Laws Section 20-7-2376 *et seq.*, relating to the functions, policies, and procedures of the Review Board System;
- b. the promulgation of regulations, upon recommendation of the Division Director, to provide for review of necessary reports and other information required from state, county and private agencies and institutions, and to report to the Family Court on the status of court ordered treatment plans;
- c. the annual report to the General Assembly which includes recommendations regarding foster care policies, procedures, and any deficiencies of public and private agencies and institutions which arrange for foster care for children; and, the activities of the Review Board System.
- d. the review and coordination of the activities of the local Review Boards;
- e. the creation or dissolution of local Review Boards as necessary to maintain appropriate caseloads for each Board.

II. Local Review Boards

There are thirty-five local Review Boards, each composed of five members, with at least one local Board in each of the sixteen judicial circuits throughout the state. Board members are appointed by the Governor upon recommendation by their respective legislative delegation. Their duties are as follows:

1. To review every six months but no less frequently than once every six months the cases of children who have resided in public foster care for a period of more than four consecutive months and to review every six months the cases of children who have resided in private foster care for a period of more than six consecutive months to determine what efforts have been made by the supervising agency or child caring facility to acquire a permanent home for the child. In private foster care cases, Review Boards will recommend

continued placement in the child caring facility unless the parents are able to resume care, in at least those instances when:

- a. children are privately placed in privately owned facilities or group homes; and
 - b. a notarized affidavit of summary review is executed by the child caring facility and is valid on its face; and
 - c. the affidavit of summary review is submitted to the Board every six months. It must be accepted by the Board if it attests to the statutorily mandated conditions and is valid on its face.
2. Except as provided in subsection (1), to encourage the return of children to their natural parents, or, upon determination during a case review of the local Review Board that this return is not in the best interest of the child, to recommend to the appropriate agency that action be taken for a maximum effort to place the child for adoption.
 3. To promote and encourage all agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons suitable and eligible as adoptive parents.
 4. To advise foster parents of their right to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and for adoption and to encourage these foster parents to initiate these proceedings in an appropriate case when it has been determined by the local Review Board that return to the natural parent is not in the best interest of the child.
 5. To recommend that a child caring facility or agency exert all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent foster care or guardianship for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is not feasible or possible as determined during a case review by the local Review Board.
 6. To report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies deficiencies in these agencies' efforts to secure permanent homes for children. These deficiencies are identified in the local Boards' review of these cases as provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

Any case findings or recommendations of a local Review Board are advisory.

Any person or agency aggrieved by an action or recommendation of a local Review Board may seek relief by petition to the Family Court of that county which shall issue a rule to show cause why the action or recommendation of the local Review Board should not be set aside or modified. If a child caring facility or agency is not in agreement with the local Review Board recommendation relating to permanent placement of a child in its care, the child caring facility or agency shall notify the chairman of the local Review Board within twenty-one days after receipt of the recommendation.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE/DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW
1994-95 ANNUAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The South Carolina Board of Directors for the Review of Foster Care of Children annually makes recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to the foster care policies, procedures, and practices of public agencies which arrange for the foster care of children. These recommendations are determined through analysis of foster care cases reviewed by the 35 local Review Boards and data collected through research and studies. In January, 1995, the South Carolina Legislative Audit Council completed an audit on the Division of Foster Care Review. The recommendations for 1994/95 are based in part on the recommendations made in the audit and from statistical indicators derived from Review Board data.

RECOMMENDATION I: Improved Utilization of Review Board Data

The Division of Foster Care Review and the Department of Social Services will develop and implement a plan to use recommendations and data issued by the Review Board as a management tool to benefit the operation of the foster care system.

ACTION STEPS:

- The Division of Foster Care Review and the Department of Social Services will appoint a task force to study ways to better utilize data and recommendations issued by the Review Board.
- The task force will develop a plan to present to the administration of the Department of Social Services and the Governor. Approval to conduct a pilot project to implement the recommended plan will be requested.
- A pilot project will be implemented in 4 identified counties to apply the plan designed by the task force.
- Projects piloted in identified counties will be evaluated and revised based on implementation findings and adjustments made for statewide implementation.
- Foster Care Review Board will draft proposed statutory changes as necessary to implement a statewide plan.
- Statewide implementation of the plan will begin with data elements in place to provide on-going evaluation and monitoring of the revised foster care evaluation system.

RECOMMENDATION II: Improved Utilization of Review Board Recommendations by the Family Court

In conjunction with the Court Improvement Process, the Foster Care Review Board will develop a process by which Review Board recommendations are considered and used more effectively by the Family Court to achieve timely permanent plans for children in foster care.

ACTION STEPS:

- The Review Board will continue to serve as a member of the Court Improvement Project Task Force. The Review Board will make recommendations as necessary to this group to facilitate improved use of recommendations issued by local Review Boards.
- The Review Board will continue to be an active participant on the Bench Bar Committee of the Kellogg initiative during 1995. Working with this group, the Review Board will identify effective ways to communicate information about the Review Board to Family Court judges.
- General Counsel for the Review Board will meet with at least one Family Court judge from each judicial circuit during 1995 to share information about the Review Board and receive useful feedback from judges on ways that the Boards can be more useful to the Family Court.
- General Counsel for the Review Board will participate in a minimum of three court hearings each month to present recommendations and concerns more frequently to the Family Court on individual cases reviewed by local Boards.
- Review Board General Counsel and program staff will continue working with attorneys representing the Department of Social Services and with county Clerks of Court to obtain advance copies of motions, orders, hearing notices, summons, complaints and rules to show cause for cases of children reviewed by local Boards.

RECOMMENDATION III: Focus On Permanence For Children Placed In Therapeutic Foster Care

The Division of Foster Care Review will use the review process to focus the attention of all parties involved with children placed in therapeutic placements on the permanent plan for the child.

ACTION STEPS:

- The Review Board will provide additional training for volunteers and staff on the need for permanence for children in therapeutic placement.

- Review Board staff will continue to actively participate as a member of the State Management Team for the System of Care for Emotionally Disturbed Children. The Review Board will continue to bring concerns identified by the Medicaid Review System to the attention of the State Management Team as they work to refine and revise the Proviso staffing process.

STATUS OF 1993-94 ANNUAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Directors made five recommendations in its 1993-94 Annual Report to the General Assembly. These recommendations were based on the research study conducted by the W.K. Kellogg Families for Kids Project and on corroborating Review Board data.

The Division of Foster Care Review remains committed to the primary objective of the Kellogg initiative, which is to find a permanent family for every child within twelve months. Review Board volunteers and State Board members will continue to support the broad paradigm shift proposed by the Kellogg project to ensure permanent families for children within a twelve month time frame. Local Review Board members and Review Board staff continue to be active participants in the Kellogg research project.

Updates to the recommendations presented in the 1993-94 Annual Report are outlined below. Each of the recommendations presented in the 1993-94 Annual Report remain valid concerns and highlight issues that will continue to be followed and monitored by the Review Board during 1995.

Recommendation I: Timely Intervention

Within one year of coming into contact with the child welfare system, a permanency outcome will be achieved for all children, including those who are at highest risk of out-of-home placement.¹

Proposed Solutions:

1. Draft legislation for presentation to the General Assembly that will establish a statutory framework for achieving permanency within twelve months. Statutory revisions should include: 1) proposals to assure that reasonable efforts are made to avoid or limit duration of removal; 2) proposals to expedite the time frames for hearings required for removal and placement, i.e. conducting a probable cause hearing within 72 hours and conducting the merit hearing within 35 days after the probable cause hearing; and, 3) expansion of the grounds for termination of parental rights by adding parental incarceration under defined conditions as a ground.

Update: Legislation is being finalized by the Families for Kids Project and should be filed by January 1, 1996.

2. Modify Family Court rules and practices that delay hearings and unnecessarily extend the process for permanency. Specific changes to existing policy would include: 1) docketing of Department of Social Services cases to be done by the court; 2) adopting standardized policies and practices concerning continuances

¹*Improving the Future for Foster and Adoptive Children, A Proposed Plan of Action to Reform South Carolina's Foster Care and Adoption Systems*, Submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation by South Carolina Families for Kids, July 29, 1994, page 21.

on children's cases; 3) educating and encouraging judges to minimize continuances in cases related to children; 4) coordinating terms for circuit and family courts to eliminate conflicting court sessions to the extent possible; 5) revising the hierarchy of cases to give priority to abuse and neglect cases; and, 6) to the extent possible, assigning matters involving a particular child to the same judge for all Family Court hearings unless there is just cause to the contrary.

Update: This issue has been referred to the Families for Kids Project. Action expected by January 1, 1996.

3. Create an expedited appeal process for termination of parental rights and other matters affecting the child's status and placement.

Update: This issue has been referred to the Families for Kids Project. No action has been recommended.

4. Create a state-wide child and family legal advocacy program to improve the Family Court system.

Update: The Children's Law Office has been established by the University of South Carolina Law School.

5. Include child welfare issues among those areas tested on the South Carolina Bar Exam.

Update: This issue has been referred to the University of South Carolina Law School and to the Children's Committee of the South Carolina Bar.

6. Include child welfare issues in continuing education programs offered to attorneys.

Update: This issue has been referred to the Judicial Education Committee of the South Carolina Bar.

7. Conduct an annual Continuing Legal Education session for Family Court judges at which joint issues of the Department of Social Services and Department of Juvenile Justice can be discussed.

Update: This issue has been referred to the Bench/Bar Subcommittee of the Families for Kids Project for consideration.

8. Streamline Department of Social Services policy and procedure in order to establish a closer working relationship between child welfare staff and agency attorneys in order to insure that legal requirements for permanency are satisfied in a timely manner. These policy areas should include: 1) modification of litigation practice to assure that all parties and pleadings necessary to terminate parental rights come before the Family Court prior to the twelve month time period; 2) revision of the current Department of Social Services policy that requires identification of an adoptive family prior to proceeding with termination of parental rights for special needs children; 3) reexamination of the adoption acceptance criteria for families; and, 4) establishment of lines of communication with Family Court judges to assure that the agency is responsive to judges' concerns about inconsistent policies or procedures, or policies perceived as unduly delaying permanence for children.

- Update:**
- 1) **Currently being studied by the Department of Social Services and Kellogg Families for Kids Project**
 - 2) **This policy change has been enacted by the Department of Social Services and was disseminated to county staff on June 1, 1995.**
 - 3) **This adoption policy is currently being studied by the Department of Social Services.**
 - 4) **Issue has been referred to General Counsel for the Department of Social Services.**

9. Coordinate a consolidated, one-time staffing effort in cooperation with the Family Court in an effort to achieve permanency for children who have been in the system for more than 12 months. This procedure would include: 1) staffing cases of all children who have been in foster care for more than twelve months to ensure that if adoption is the plan, the termination of parental rights summary has been initiated and, if necessary, to assess other permanent plans to insure that permanency is achieved; 2) establishing a one-time six month extension with the Family Court if necessary to insure that reasonable efforts have been provided to the birth family to remedy the problems that resulted in the child's placement; 3) developing expedited procedures to facilitate the preparation of termination of parental rights summaries and placement of children in adoptive homes; and 4) requesting that Court Administration hire special judges to hold court during the transition period to alleviate the backlog of cases that will need to come before the court for resolution.

- Update:**
- 1) **This initiative is currently taking place within the Department of Social Services.**
 - 2) **This issue is being studied by the Department of Social Services and the Kellogg Families for Kids Project.**
 - 3) **This issue is being studied by the Department of Social Services and the Kellogg Families for Kids Project.**

- 4) **This issue is being studied by the Department of Social Services and the Kellogg Families for Kids Project.**

10. Design and implement a comprehensive computer tracking system for the Family Court System.

Update: There is no information available on the status of this recommendation at this time.

11. Strengthen the relationship between the Review Board and the Family Court to allow communication between the two systems which will facilitate timely permanent plans for children.

Update: See Recommendation II, Division of Foster Care Review 1994-95 Annual Report, Page 6.

Recommendation II: Coordinated Assessment

A coordinated, single assessment process, which includes community, public and private children's agencies, and family members involved in the child welfare system, should be implemented for all children entering foster care using available technology to facilitate communication among team members.²

Proposed Solutions:

1. Develop a community assessment process which keeps the child in the community, has flexibility for local implementation, facilitates appropriate interdisciplinary input, and incorporates available technology to connect members of the assessment team.

Update: The System of Care for Emotionally Disturbed Children and the Out of Home Care Protocol have begun a community assessment process.

2. Develop a uniform single application process that links all health and human services agencies to a common data system and reduces the application time for families.

²*Improving the Future for Foster and Adoptive Children, A Proposed Plan of Action to Reform South Carolina's Foster Care and Adoption Systems*, Submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation by South Carolina Families for Kids, July 29, 1994, page 14.

Update: Recommendations to establish a Uniform Application Process were approved by the Human Services Coordinating Council in January, 1995. Pilot projects are set to begin in August, 1995.

3. Develop and implement a state-wide program for the joint assessment of foster and adoptive families.

Update: This issue is being studied by the Department of Social Services and the Kellogg Families for Kids Project.

Recommendation III: Consistent Casework Services

A family and child will be provided one caseworker or casework team throughout the implementation of their permanent plan.³

Proposed Solutions:

1. Establish and implement a state-wide interagency protocol to outline specific procedures to be followed by a single worker or casework team. These procedures will be followed for all children entering the foster care system.

Update: The Out-of-Home Care Protocol has been developed and is being implemented on a county-by-county basis.

2. Provide legal expertise and adoption planning to the single worker or casework team early in the child's placement in foster care to determine whether adoption planning should proceed for a child.

Update: Recent changes in legal representation for the Department of Social Services and changes in policies within the adoption program should address this concern.

3. Develop staff incentives to recruit and train qualified child welfare workers in order to improve the stability of the child welfare system.

Update: This issue is currently being studied by the Department of Social Services.

³*Improving the Future for Foster and Adoptive Children, A Proposed Plan of Action to Reform South Carolina's Foster Care and Adoption Systems*, Submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation by South Carolina Families for Kids, July 29, 1994, page 16.

Recommendation IV: Stable Foster Care

A child placed in foster care will be assured of a single, stable foster placement, within his or her own community until a permanent outcome is achieved.⁴

Proposed Solutions:

1. Develop and implement training for foster and adoptive families that deals with issues of rejection, loss, attachment, grief and identity issues that impact children who come into the child welfare system.
2. Support and develop foster and adoptive parents' associations in order to enhance recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families for minority, special needs and sibling groups who cannot remain with their birth families.
3. Recruit and train specialized foster parents for a single sibling group and expand the foster parents' role in connecting children to relatives and other significant persons in the children's lives.
4. Develop and implement strategies to strengthen child welfare partnerships with the educational system.

Update: Limited progress has been made on this Recommendation. These issues are being studied by the Department of Social Services.

Recommendation V: Family Strengthening

Foster and adoptive families who are uncertain about the permanent plan for children in their care, who are in contact with the child welfare system, will have community support and assistance to improve their ability to solve and/or cope with the problems of everyday living and promote the healthy development of their children. These services will be tailored to meet the children's needs as well as the family's needs and overall will be child-centered, family-focused, and family-directed to the extent possible.⁵

⁴*Improving the Future for Foster and Adoptive Children, A Proposed Plan of Action to Reform South Carolina's Foster Care and Adoption Systems*, Submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation by South Carolina Families for Kids, July 29, 1994, page 18.

⁵*Improving the Future for Foster and Adoptive Children, A Proposed Plan of Action to Reform South Carolina's Foster Care and Adoption Systems*, Submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation by South Carolina Families for Kids, July 29, 1994, page 11.

Proposed Solutions:

1. Identify and develop volunteer community services that assist in maintaining the stability of foster and adoptive homes; develop aggressive outreach activities to include these children and their families in civic programs and services.

Update: The Department of Social Services has a project underway with the South Carolina United Way to recruit, train and support volunteers who will work with county Department of Social Service programs.

2. Develop and distribute informative material for foster and adoptive families about the child welfare and legal systems and other issues which affect their children; improve the state-wide public image of foster and adoptive parents and the child welfare system.

Update: The Department of Social Services is developing a newsletter for foster and adopted children to distribute information. The first issue has been produced and will be distributed beginning in September, 1995. No information is available at this time on plans to improve the public image of foster and adoptive parents.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DATA REGARDING AREAS OF CONCERN

January 1, 1994 - December 31, 1994

The Division of Foster Care Review is mandated by SC Code Section 20-7-2376 *et seq.* to report annually to the General Assembly any deficiencies identified during the course of case review in the custodial agency's efforts to acquire a permanent home for each child in foster care or prospective adoptive placement. The written advisory recommendation issued by the local Review Board on each case indicates any deficiencies identified on that case. Such deficiencies are described as Areas of Concern.

Since a major focus of the Foster Care Review Board is to help systems to work for children, the identification and analysis of significant barriers or concerns which may prevent timely, permanent placement is essential. Areas of Concern are defined as violations of federal law, state law or public agency policy which have been determined by the Review Board to be significant barriers in the provision of permanency planning services to children in foster care. The definitions for the Areas of Concern are presented beginning on page 19 of this report.

Data regarding statewide comparative statistics on the percentage of cases with Areas of Concern are described on page 21.

Please note that although the Department of Social Services holds custody and service delivery responsibility for the four thousand six hundred and twenty-five (4625) children in public foster care reviewed by the Boards in 1994, the Department of Social Services is not responsible for all of the barriers or deficiencies mentioned in this report. Service delivery to foster children involves the complex interaction of many systems, any one of which may be a contributing factor which prolongs a child's stay in foster care.

Areas of Concern

For purposes of data analysis, the twenty Areas of Concern tracked by the Foster Care Review Board during 1994 are divided into three categories, legal, program and Foster Care Review Board. Definitions of these three categories are as follows:

- 1) Legal - Violations of federal statutory requirements related to PL 96-272; violations of state law in regard to untimely court hearings and adoption proceedings; and non-compliance with court orders.
- 2) Program - Violations of programmatic policies and procedures established by public agencies related to the delivery of child welfare services. Areas of Concern in this area deal with violations of public agency policy regarding service delivery to foster children and their families. These programmatic Areas of Concern reflect inadequacies in the funding and/or delivery of services to foster children.

- 3) Foster Care Review Board - Violations of regulations related to foster care review that have been enacted by the General Assembly. The issuance of a Recommendation by the Foster Care Review Board is predicated upon the receipt of appropriate information from the presenting agency; therefore, specific information to be provided for each review by the presenting agency is outlined in regulations promulgated pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 20-7-2379.

LEGAL

- No timely ten day hearing held on child's case ¹
- No timely merit hearing held on child's case ²
- No timely judicial review ³
- Non-compliance with court orders
- No court orders presented at review ⁴
- Adoption complaint not filed timely ⁵

PROGRAM

- No written case plan for the child ⁶
- Case plan specified for child not complete ⁷
- No written case plan established within 60 days ⁸
- No time frame for completion of child's permanent plan ⁹
- No progress on permanent plan ¹⁰
- Agency policy or procedure violation ¹¹

¹South Carolina Code Section 20-7-610 requires that a hearing be held within ten days of the removal to determine if emergency protective custody was warranted on all children who enter foster care through this procedure.

²South Carolina Code Section 20-7-736 requires that a hearing on the merits of a child's removal be held within 40 days;

³SC Code Section 20-7-766; PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(c); Failure to conduct timely judicial reviews can be documented as a violation of state law as well as a violation of federal requirements. Statistical data tracked in this category includes both state and federal violations in this area.

⁴FCRB Reg. 24-15(P); SC Family Court Rule 26(C)

⁵SC Code Section 20-7-1730

⁶PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(1); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(A)

⁷PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(1); PL 96-272 Section 475 (5)(A) & (B)

⁸PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(1); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(A); DSS Directive Memo D88-210

⁹PL 96-272 Section 471(a)(16); PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(B)

¹⁰PL 96-272 Section 475(5)(B)

¹¹Examples of Department of Social Service policy violations cited by the Review Board and included in this category include; search procedures for absent parents, assessment of relative adoption, caseworker

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

- Child's entry into foster care not reported timely ¹²
- No timely foster care review: agency worker absent ¹³
- Interested parties not invited to attend reviews ¹⁴
- Interested parties invited to attend reviews not given three week notice ¹⁵
- No psychologicals presented at review ¹⁶
- No notice of non-concurrence with Review Board recommendation submitted ¹⁷
- Inaccurate Information Presented at Review ¹⁸
- Other

Statewide totals for each Area of Concern and associated percentages are presented in Table I on page 18 of this report. Totals and percentages for each county and area adoption office are presented in Table III beginning on page 22.

visitation with children, procedures related to voluntary placements, procedures to implement termination of parental rights and other specific policy issues.

¹²SC FCRB Reg. 24-17(A)

¹³SC FCRB Reg. 24-23(B)

¹⁴FCRB Reg. 24-9. Foster Care Review Board Regulation 24-9 requires that certain interested parties be invited to attend case reviews and that these parties receive at least three weeks advance notice of the date and time for the review in order that they may make arrangements to participate in the review if they choose to do so.

¹⁵FCRB Reg. 24-9

¹⁶FCRB Reg. 24-15(Q)(R)

¹⁷FCRB Reg. 24-35 also S. C. Code Section 20-7-2391

¹⁸Information is provided after the review which contradicts information presented during the review.

TABLE I
STATEWIDE AREAS OF CONCERN
January 1, 1994 - December 31, 1994

NUMBER OF REVIEWS FOR TIME PERIOD: 8040
 % TOTAL REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN: 49.5

<u>AREA OF CONCERN</u>	<u>FREQUENCY OF AREAS OF CONCERN</u>	<u>% OF STATE TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN</u>
<u>LEGAL</u>		
NO TIMELY TEN DAY HEARING	59	0.9
NO TIMELY MERIT HEARING	301	4.6
NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW	1344	20.4
NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER	415	6.3
NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW	482	7.3
ADOPTION COMPLAINT NOT FILED TIMELY	46	0.7
Subtotal	2647	40.2
<u>PROGRAM</u>		
NO CASE PLAN	218	3.3
INCOMPLETE CASE PLAN	1031	15.6
NO CASE PLAN WITHIN 60 DAYS	189	2.9
NO TIME FRAME FOR PERM. PLAN	55	0.8
NO PROGRESS ON PERMANENT PLAN	197	2.9
AGENCY POLICY PROCEDURE VIOLATION	1397	21.2
Subtotal	3087	46.8
<u>FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD</u>		
ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY	56	0.8
NO TIMELY FCRB: CW ABSENT	52	0.8
PARTIES NOT INVITED TO ATTEND	274	4.2
NO THREE WEEK NOTICE TO PARTIES	141	2.1
NO PSYCHOLOGICALS AT REVIEW	21	0.3
NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED	251	3.8
INACCURATE INFO AT REVIEW	10	0.2
OTHER	53	0.8
Subtotal	858	13.0
TOTALS:	6592	100.0

DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW
1994 AREA OF CONCERN DEFINITIONS

LEGAL

1. NO TIMELY TEN DAY HEARING

SC Code Section 20-7-610

The Ten Day Hearing was not completed within the 10 day time frame stipulated by law or has not been held at all.

2. NO TIMELY MERIT

SC Code Section 20-7-610
SC Code Section 20-7-736

Merit hearing was not completed within the 40 day time frame stipulated by law or has not been held at all.

3. NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW

SC Code Section 20-7-766
PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(c)

Judicial review was not held within time frames stipulated by state or federal requirements or has not been held at all.

4. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER

Agency is not in compliance with court order.

5. NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW

FCRB Reg.24-15(P)
SC Family Court Rule 26(C)

A hearing was held at least 30 days prior to the Review Board meeting and copy of the court order was not available

6. ADOPTION COMPLAINT NOT FILED TIMELY

SC Code Section 20-7-1730

Adoptive placement agreements have been signed and the adoption complaint was not filed within the time frame stipulated by law or has not been filed at all.

PROGRAM

7. NO CASE PLAN

PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)

A case plan was not presented to the Review Board at the time of the review, or the time frames on the most recent case plan document have expired. (If a case plan is presented, but a copy is not provided to the Review Board at the time of the review, this is cited as a policy and procedure violation.)

8. INCOMPLETE CASE PLAN

PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)&(B)
42 U.S.C. 675(1)

Treatment objectives were not defined in the case plan; the case plan was not signed by the parent(s) and there was no indication as to why that was not possible; or other parts of the 3016 Case Plan document were incomplete.

9. NO CASE PLAN WITHIN 60 DAYS

DSS Directive Memo D88-210
PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(1)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(A)

A case plan was not initiated with the parent(s) within the first 60 days of placement as per agency policy and federal guidelines.

10. NO TIME FRAME

*PL 96-272-Section 471(a)(16)
PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(B)*

A time frame for completion of the permanent plan was not stated on the case plan document.

11. NO PROGRESS PERMANENT PLAN

PL 96-272-Section 475(5)(B)

No progress was made to achieve permanent plan within the past six months.

12. POLICY/PROCEDURE VIOLATION

Violations of DSS policies/procedures as outlined in agency policy manuals were documented during the case review.

Child's entry into foster care was not reported on time to schedule a timely review per statute.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

12. ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY

FCRB Reg. 24-17(A)

13. NO TIMELY FCRB: WORKER ABSENT

FCRB Reg. 24-23(B)

A review was not held because the caseworker (or designated agency personnel) was not present to make a presentation to the Review Board.

14. INTERESTED PARTIES NOT INVITED

FCRB Reg. 24-9

Review was continued because interested parties specified by Review Board regulations were not invited to the review.

15. NO THREE WEEKS NOTICE

FCRB Reg. 24-9

Interested parties invited to the review did not receive three weeks advance notice as required.

16. NO PSYCHOLOGICAL AT REVIEW

*FCRB Reg. 24-15 (Q)(R)
(30 days our internal guideline)*

A psychological evaluation was completed at least 30 days prior to review and a copy of this report was not available for the Review Board as per regulation.

17. NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED

*FCRB Reg. 24-35
SC Code Section 20-7-2391*

Agency did not submit a written non-concurrence within 21 days of receipt of the preview Review Board recommendation as per statute.

18. INACCURATE INFORMATION AT REVIEW

Information is provided after the review which contradicts information presented during the review.

20. OTHER

Case specific concerns that do not fall into above categories. These usually apply to case work issues (i.e., sibling remaining in home determined to be at risk, needs of foster child not being met, foster child not enrolled in school for unreasonable period of time).

TABLE II
SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
AREAS OF CONCERN
COMPARATIVE STATS 1993-1994

COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC 1993	% Reviews w/AOC 1994	# OF Reviews 1993	# OF Reviews 1994	COUNTY	% Reviews w/AOC 1993	% Reviews w/AOC 1994	# OF Reviews 1993	# OF Reviews 1994
ABBEVILLE	40.0%	32.4%	70	68	GREENWOOD	2.0%	9.1%	50	66
AIKEN	46.9%	46.7%	456	349	HAMPTON	28.6%	9.0%	84	67
ALLENDALE	40.4%	36.4%	47	44	HORRY	68.7%	60.1%	431	552
ANDERSON	9.1%	21.0%	296	333	JASPER	29.4%	30.0%	17	10
BAMBERG	18.2%	-	44	87	KERSHAW	13.3%	31.1%	90	103
BARNWELL	53.7%	67.5%	54	80	LANCASTER	32.2%	19.4%	115	108
BEAUFORT	59.7%	64.4%	176	149	LAURENS	24.1%	3.5%	58	57
BERKELEY	89.4%	73.7%	252	251	LEE	13.5%	9.4%	37	32
CALHOUN	40.0%	26.5%	35	34	LEXINGTON	29.2%	40.9%	113	115
CHARLESTON	58.0%	33.8%	624	672	MARION	21.7%	22.1%	138	154
CHEROKEE	30.2%	57.6%	116	99	MARLBORO	17.6%	9.3%	125	86
CHESTER	14.9%	13.0%	94	77	MCCORMICK	7.4%	27.3%	27	33
CHESTERFIELD	37.0%	21.7%	46	46	NEWBERRY	31.3%	41.4%	32	29
CLARENDON	37.4%	37.6%	155	170	OCONEE	42.0%	40.6%	112	101
COLLETON	52.3%	71.4%	86	133	ORANGEBURG	6.8%	8.6%	250	245
DARLINGTON	26.9%	37.4%	93	91	PICKENS	12.7%	15.1%	71	73
DILLON	42.6%	55.6%	54	45	RICHLAND	50.2%	67.2%	963	897
DORCHESTER	36.5%	66.4%	85	143	SALUDA	45.0%	49.2%	131	118
EDGEFIELD	21.2%	23.4%	33	47	SPARTANBURG	30.4%	18.0%	428	366
FAIRFIELD	27.8%	33.8%	72	68	SUMTER	31.1%	49.5%	180	192
FLORENCE	54.5%	43.8%	341	404	UNION	54.5%	55.6%	11	18
GEORGETOWN	49.6%	25.7%	115	105	WILLIAMSBURG	48.1%	53.3%	52	60
GREENVILLE	50.3%	56.4%	525	495	YORK	22.5%	17.5%	249	194

AREA ADOPTIONS

Area Adopt I	50.0%	54.1%	62	74	Area Adopt IV	18.2%	14.8%	66	54
Area Adopt II	30.4%	31.9%	46	47	Area Adopt V	50.0%	33.8%	55	68
Area Adopt III	9.8%	23.1%	41	52	Area Adopt VI	12.1%	9.6%	33	52

*Bold type indicates counties that reduced their percentage of reviews with Areas of Concern from 1993 figures.

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1994 - DECEMBER 31, 1994

	AREA I	AREA II	AREA III	AREA IV	AREA V	AREA VI	ABBEVILLE	AIKEN	ALLENDALE	ANDERSON
Legal										
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
No Timely Merit Hearing	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	13
No Timely Judicial Review	19	5	5	6	4	1	7	99	10	36
Non-Compliance w/Court Order	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	56	9	1
No Court Order at Review	2	-	-	1	2	1	2	22	3	2
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	26	1	7	2	4	4	-	-	-	-
Sub - Total	47	6	13	10	10	6	10	181	23	56
Program										
No Case Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	9	3
Incomplete Case Plan	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	90	9	26
No Case Plan w/in 60 Days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	3	-
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
No Progress on Permanent Plan	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	42	5	-
Agency Policy/Proc. Violation	-	5	4	-	3	1	2	176	20	27
Sub-Total	4	7	4	0	3	1	5	360	46	56
Foster Care Review Board										
Entry Not Reported Timely	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-
Interested Parties Not Invited	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	44	-	6
No 3 Week Notice to Parties	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	31	-	-
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
No Non-Concurrence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	1	5
Inaccurate Info at Review	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Other	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-
Sub-Total	4	3	1	1	2	1	0	107	2	12
Totals:										
Areas of Concern	55	16	18	11	15	8	15	648	71	124
Number of Children*	48	36	60	42	30	36	27	212	29	216
Reviews of Children**	62	45	68	46	37	43	44	404	54	350
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	37	15	18	10	12	7	12	297	35	93
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	59.7	33.3	26.5	21.7	32.4	16.3	27.3	73.5	64.8	26.6

*Indicates an unduplicated county of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1994 - DECEMBER 31, 1994

	BAMBERG	BARNWELL	BEAUFORT	BERKELEY	CALHOUN	CHARLESTON	CHEROKEE	CHESTER	CHESTERFIELD	CLARENDON	COLLETON
Legal											
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	-	1	6	-	7	-	-	-	1	4
No Timely Merit Hearing	-	2	2	21	1	26	11	-	-	1	31
No Timely Judicial Review	1	10	16	52	1	118	18	3	6	51	31
Non-Compliance w/ Court Order	1	7	45	9	-	15	7	1	4	10	32
No Court Order at Review	-	-	7	5	3	71	4	16	-	4	8
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub - Total	2	19	71	93	5	237	40	20	10	67	106
Program											
No Case Plan	-	3	6	18	-	17	1	1	-	9	-
Incomplete Case Plan	3	19	20	27	1	93	20	10	5	18	8
No Case Plan w/in 60 Days	-	1	5	9	-	11	10	1	-	-	1
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Progress on Permanent Plan	2	-	2	5	-	11	2	-	-	6	10
Agency Policy/Proc. Violation	5	45	37	36	2	109	13	5	11	26	48
Sub-Total	10	68	70	95	3	241	46	17	16	59	67
Foster Care Review Board											
Entry Not Reported Timely	1	1	2	-	-	8	1	3	-	1	1
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	5	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Interested Parties Not Invited	3	8	10	9	-	20	2	-	3	-	7
No Three Week Notice to Parties	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1
No Non-Concurrence	2	9	1	9	-	3	13	-	2	8	10
Incorrect Info at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	17
Sub-Total	6	23	26	19	0	44	16	7	5	9	36
Totals:											
Areas of Concern	18	110	167	207	8	522	102	44	31	135	209
Number of Children*	44	49	84	148	13	434	54	44	39	87	87
Reviews of Children**	79	100	160	254	22	747	92	73	60	187	148
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	15	70	108	150	6	374	57	32	26	112	95
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	19.0	70.0	67.5	59.1	27.3	50.1	62.0	43.8	43.3	50.3	75.7

*Indicates an unduplicated county of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1994 - DECEMBER 31, 1994

	DARLINGTON	DILLON	DORCHESTER	EDGEFIELD	FAIRFIELD	FLORENCE	GEORGETOWN	GREENVILLE	GREENWOOD	HAMPTON	HORRY	JASPER
<u>Legal</u>												
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	1	5	-	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
No Timely Merit	-	1	13	4	3	16	7	14	-	-	5	-
No Timely Judicial Review	2	-	36	3	4	96	16	63	6	-	56	-
Non-Compliance with Court Order	-	-	8	-	-	7	4	48	-	-	22	-
No Court Order at Review	1	-	27	17	1	56	1	12	-	2	13	-
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub - Total	3	2	90	24	11	176	28	139	6	2	96	0
<u>Program</u>												
No Case Plan	3	1	10	14	3	10	-	16	2	-	7	-
Incomplete Case Plan	5	3	47	20	16	28	16	69	2	-	62	-
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	-	-	6	1	-	9	1	9	-	-	1	-
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Progress on Permanent Plan	-	-	1	2	-	3	-	1	-	-	7	-
Agency Policy Proc. Violation	-	4	37	15	15	46	10	54	4	1	63	1
Sub-Total	8	8	101	52	34	104	27	149	8	1	140	1
<u>Foster Care Review Board</u>												
Entry not Reported Timely	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interested Parties Not Invited	-	-	11	2	-	10	5	13	-	-	6	-
No Three Week Notice to Parties	-	-	10	-	-	24	2	-	-	-	-	-
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Non-Concurrence	2	-	12	9	1	-	-	16	-	-	12	-
Incorrect Info at Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sub-Total	2	0	37	11	6	35	8	31	0	0	20	0
<u>Totals:</u>												
Areas of Concern	13	10	228	87	51	315	63	319	14	3	256	1
Number of Children*	47	37	82	45	37	210	63	259	33	32	313	6
Reviews of Children**	80	59	139	73	67	361	101	447	59	54	501	13
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	13	9	109	47	40	201	42	230	14	3	199	1
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	16.3	15.3	78.4	64.4	59.7	55.8	41.6	51.5	23.7	5.6	39.7	7.7

*Indicates an unduplicated county of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1994 - DECEMBER 31, 1994

	KERSHAW	LANCASTER	LAURENS	LEE	LEXINGTON	MARION	MARLBORO	MCCORMICK	NEWBERRY	OCONEE	ORANGEBURG
<u>Legal</u>											
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	1
No Timely Merit	-	2	-	8	8	3	-	-	1	11	3
No Timely Judicial Review	10	15	2	-	21	-	-	-	1	18	16
Non-Compliance with Court Order	6	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-
No Court Order at Review	2	2	2	-	4	-	1	-	4	9	3
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub - Total	18	19	4	8	34	9	1	0	7	39	23
<u>Program</u>											
No Case Plan	-	5	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	3	1
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	2
Incomplete Case Plan	3	23	6	4	23	-	12	1	10	12	12
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Progress on Permanent Plan	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	18	6	11	-	21	9	1	1	3	10	20
Sub-Total	21	34	21	5	51	11	13	2	15	28	35
<u>Foster Care Review Board</u>											
Entry not Reported Timely	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interested Parties Not Invited	-	2	1	-	8	-	1	-	2	-	3
No Three Week Notice to Parties	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Non-Concurrence	5	4	-	-	1	3	-	-	3	1	1
Incorrect Info at Review	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	2
Sub-Total	9	8	1	0	20	3	1	0	5	11	6
<u>Totals:</u>											
Areas of Concern	48	61	26	13	105	23	15	2	27	78	64
Number of Children*	56	67	40	29	83	89	38	10	17	65	146
Reviews of Children**	96	110	66	44	132	142	57	17	27	104	245
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	42	47	23	13	62	19	13	1	15	50	58
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	43.8	42.7	34.8	29.5	47.0	13.4	22.8	5.9	55.6	48.1	23.7

*Indicates an unduplicated county of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

TABLE III
AREAS OF CONCERN BY PARTY HOLDING LEGAL CUSTODY
JANUARY 1, 1994 - DECEMBER 31, 1994

	PICKENS	RICHLAND	SALUDA	SPARTANBURG	SUMTER	UNION	WILLIAMSBURG	YORK	GRAND TOTAL
<u>Legal</u>									
No Timely Ten Day Hearing	1	15	-	1	-	-	-	1	59
No Timely Merit	6	63	-	8	6	-	3	3	301
No Timely Judicial Review	8	361	6	6	59	5	19	14	1344
Non-Compliance with Court Order	-	98	4	2	6	5	-	-	415
No Court Order at Review	2	139	4	10	7	-	3	7	482
Adopt. Complaint Not Filed	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	46
Sub - Total	17	676	14	27	79	10	25	25	2647
<u>Program</u>									
No Case Plan	-	20	2	3	8	1	1	-	218
No Case Plan W/in 60 Days	1	67	5	15	11	-	-	2	189
Incomplete Case Plan	1	214	16	12	30	7	-	20	1031
No Time Frame for Permanent Plan	-	37	1	2	1	-	3	-	55
No Progress on Permanent Plan	-	86	-	-	3	-	-	-	197
Agency Policy/Proc Violation	1	403	7	5	33	2	6	16	1397
Sub-Total	3	827	31	37	86	10	10	38	3087
<u>Foster Care Review Board</u>									
Entry not Reported Timely	-	8	-	4	2	2	1	-	56
No Timely FCRB: CW Absent	-	31	1	-	-	-	-	-	52
Interested Parties Not Invited	3	72	1	1	10	2	-	5	274
No Three Week Notice to Parties	-	59	-	3	-	-	-	-	141
No Psychologicals at Review	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	21
No Non-Concurrence	2	77	-	2	18	1	-	4	251
Incorrect Info at Review	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Other	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	53
Sub-Total	5	254	4	12	30	5	1	9	858
<u>Totals:</u>									
Areas of Concern	25	1757	49	76	195	25	36	72	6592
Number of Children*	57	519	47	230	104	11	30	113	4625
Reviews of Children**	97	977	84	381	179	16	58	178	8040
Reviews of Children w/ Areas of Concern	22	812	33	67	115	14	27	53	3976
% Reviews w/Areas of Concern	22.7	83.1	39.3	17.6	64.2	87.5	46.6	29.8	49.5

*Indicates an unduplicated county of the number of children reviewed in each county/area during the time period.

**Indicates the total number of reviews conducted for the time period; some children receive more than one review during the calendar year.

1994 DEMOGRAPHIC AND COMPARATIVE DATA ON THE FOSTER CARE POPULATION AND REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

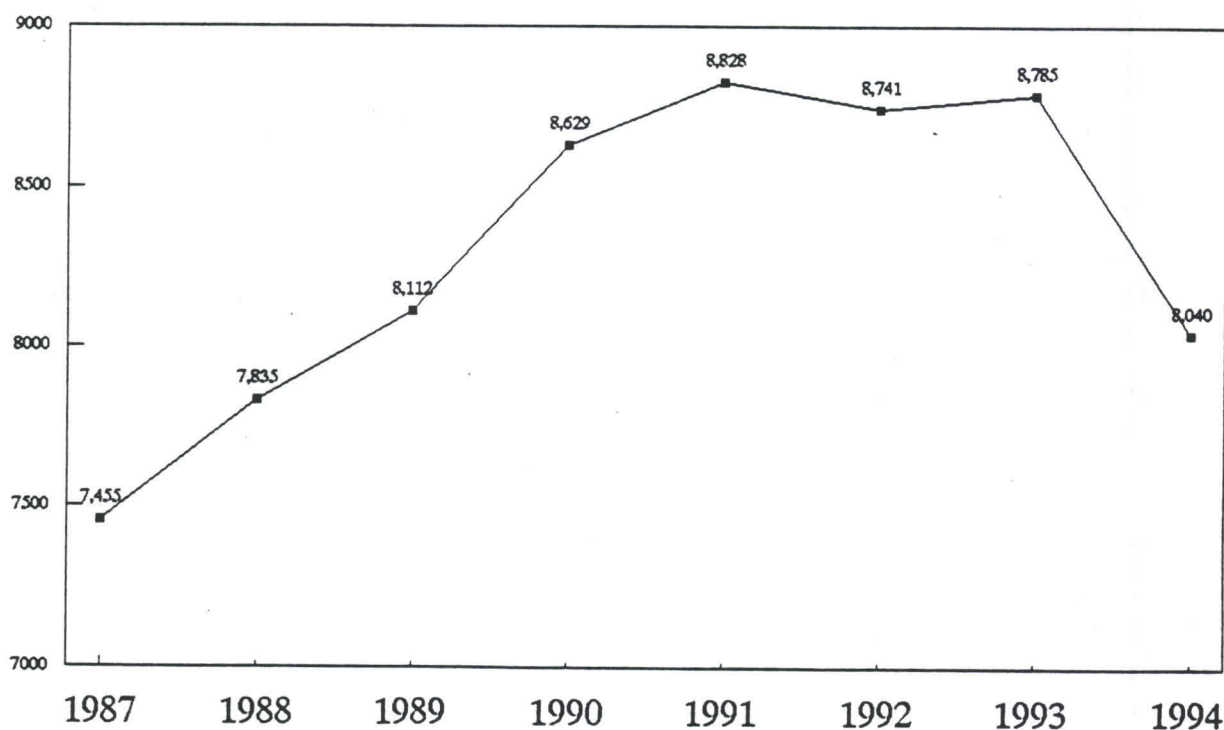
The Division of Foster Care Review implemented an in-house computer information system in 1987. Each year changes and revisions are made, as necessary, in data collection methods in order to enhance the system and to provide better utilization of data. Questions related to data comparison should be referred to the Governor's Office, Division of Foster Care Review.

How many reviews are conducted by the Division of Foster Care Review each year?

The Review Board conducted a total of 8040 reviews in 1994 on a total of 4625 children. This is a decrease in the number of reviews conducted by the Review Board in 1993 due to the suspension of reviews of children privately placed in private children's homes. Effective January 1, 1994, children privately placed in private children's homes were no longer reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board. Statutory authority was granted to the Review Board in Proviso #6DD.39 of the Fiscal Year 93/94 budget to cease these reviews. The General Assembly believed it to be a more appropriate use of state dollars to focus reviews on the cases of children who are in the custody of the State rather than private cases. This significant change in the population of children reviewed by the Boards should be considered when evaluating comparative data noted in this report.

Table A illustrates the changes in the number of reviews conducted by the Review Board since 1987.

TABLE A
REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY FCRB
1987 - 1994



The number of individual reviews conducted each month in 1994 by each local Review Board is depicted in Table B.

TABLE B
1994 REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS

Average Reviews Per Month: 670

Average Caseload Per Board: 230

BOARD	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
1A	17	17	25	16	29	14	18	21	22	19	27	16	241
1B	10	16	26	19	19	10	12	16	21	17	19	9	194
2A	29	20	25	20	28	24	27	27	37	27	27	18	309
2B	19	22	32	25	22	21	17	19	29	33	22	21	282
3A	37	32	15	23	12	20	20	22	13	25	10	20	249
3B	17	17	22	26	20	18	19	18	17	27	17	15	233
4A	-	15	22	-	18	13	-	16	17	-	13	10	124
4B	-	27	23	9	14	-	14	16	16	10	15	-	144
5A	-	8	20	8	13	7	18	16	14	13	22	12	151
5B	21	18	21	24	19	14	20	23	16	22	23	14	235
5C	31	32	26	23	20	26	32	28	24	23	21	25	311
5D	28	26	30	26	16	17	21	32	25	25	15	17	278
5E	-	15	11	16	-	24	-	17	13	11	-	15	122
6A	23	14	31	22	16	25	18	20	38	24	15	24	270
7A	14	34	24	25	19	14	21	24	21	29	18	17	260
7B	14	19	14	28	12	6	29	17	24	33	20	7	223
8A	19	25	25	18	13	-	23	20	23	23	16	-	205
9A	24	20	42	42	33	32	32	32	38	47	29	24	395
9B	18	17	26	19	28	27	18	17	27	15	27	20	259
9C	36	34	23	29	21	18	43	40	31	30	17	18	340
9D*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14	15	29
10A	12	-	20	-	21	17	11	10	18	16	23	16	164
10B	34	24	36	38	28	19	17	20	24	28	20	19	307
11A	30	26	18	11	15	5	10	7	14	22	15	16	189
11B	-	-	10	19	8	10	18	9	11	24	16	11	136
12A	23	27	23	21	34	22	21	26	22	33	35	27	314
12B	16	20	26	-	17	23	16	16	32	-	17	20	203
13A	14	15	13	-	11	-	-	21	12	-	13	-	99
13B	27	21	11	20	18	16	23	23	14	21	21	14	229
13C	23	14	21	32	26	18	27	18	18	27	28	10	262
14A	24	24	28	25	23	55	-	21	23	24	19	16	282
14B	13	19	-	19	21	21	-	17	10	18	20	18	176
15A	23	28	32	31	21	13	20	18	25	25	22	20	278
15B	32	38	27	33	20	32	29	28	27	30	19	25	340
16A	22	18	19	12	17	10	20	17	15	18	21	18	207
TOTALS:	650	702	767	679	652	591	614	692	731	739	675	547	8040

*Board created during 1994

Who are the local Board members reviewing cases of children in foster care?

During 1994, 35 local Review Boards conducted reviews of children in foster care. Each local Review Board is made up of five members who are recommended to the Governor for appointment by their local legislative delegations. Board members are appointed to serve four year terms and may be reappointed for continued service upon recommendation of their local legislative delegation. Information presented in Table C provides general indicators of race and sex of local Board members serving during 1994 as compared to those serving during 1993.

TABLE C
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON SELECTED VARIABLES
FOR LOCAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

CATEGORY	1993		1994	
	#	%	#	%
Number of members active	158	100%	159	100%
Number of male members	42	27%	37	23%
Number of female members	116	73%	122	77%
Number of minority members	50	32%	43	27%
Number of new members appointed during the year	36	23%	30	19%

Who are the children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board?

During 1994, eight hundred and seventy-one (871) children entered the system and had their first review, twelve hundred and eighteen children (1218) left foster care and four thousand, six hundred and seventeen (4617) children were active in the system. The total number of children in each category decreased when compared to 1993 data due to the elimination of data previously compiled for children privately placed in private children's homes. Data presented in the following tables presents descriptive information on children reviewed by their ages, race and sex.

Statistical Comparison by Age

Tables D, E, and F compare the number of children in select age groups who entered the Review Board System, the number who left the system, and the number of children who remained active in the Review Board System during 1994.

Table D shows that one-third (33%) of the children entering the foster care system during 1994 were between the ages of ten and fifteen. Table F indicates that this age group also was the largest group active in the foster care system. However, Table E shows that children in the sixteen to twenty-one year age bracket left foster care in the largest numbers. This data indicates that children in the fifteen year age range may stay in care until they emancipate out of the system, rather than leaving care due to placement in a permanent home.

TABLE D
1994 COMPARATIVE DATA
AGES OF CHILDREN REVIEWED – ENTERING CARE

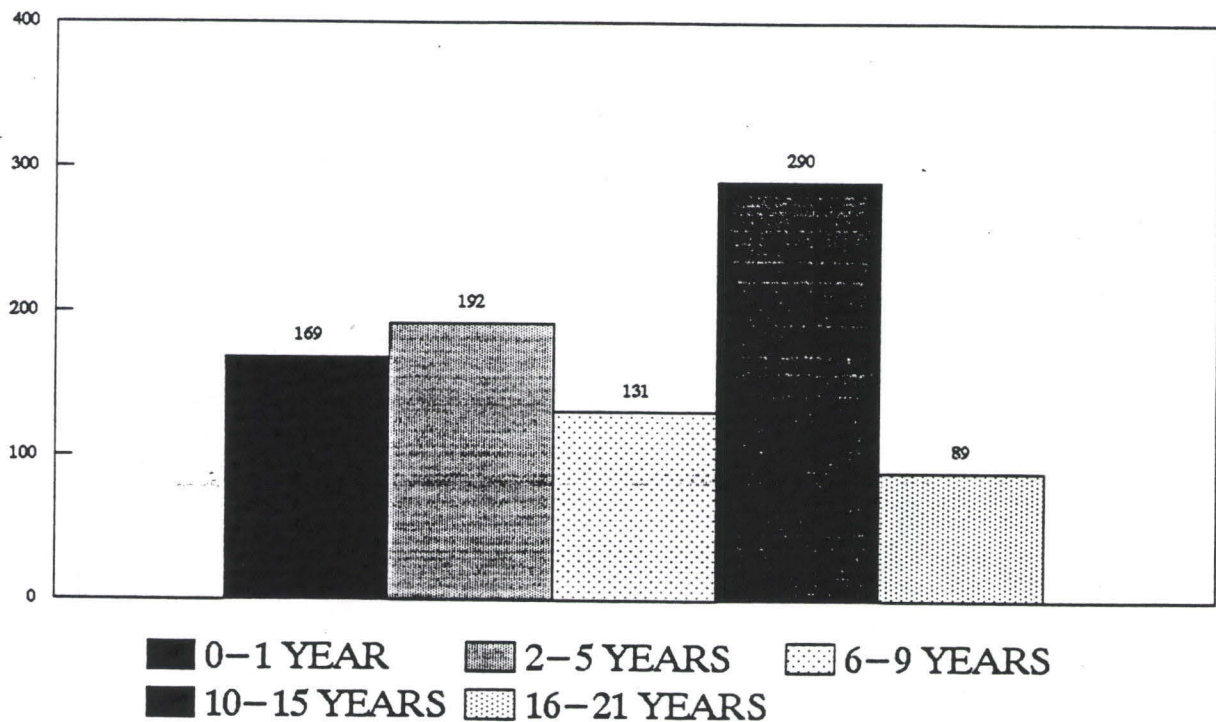


TABLE E
1994 COMPARATIVE DATA
AGES OF CHILDREN REVIEWED - LEAVING CARE

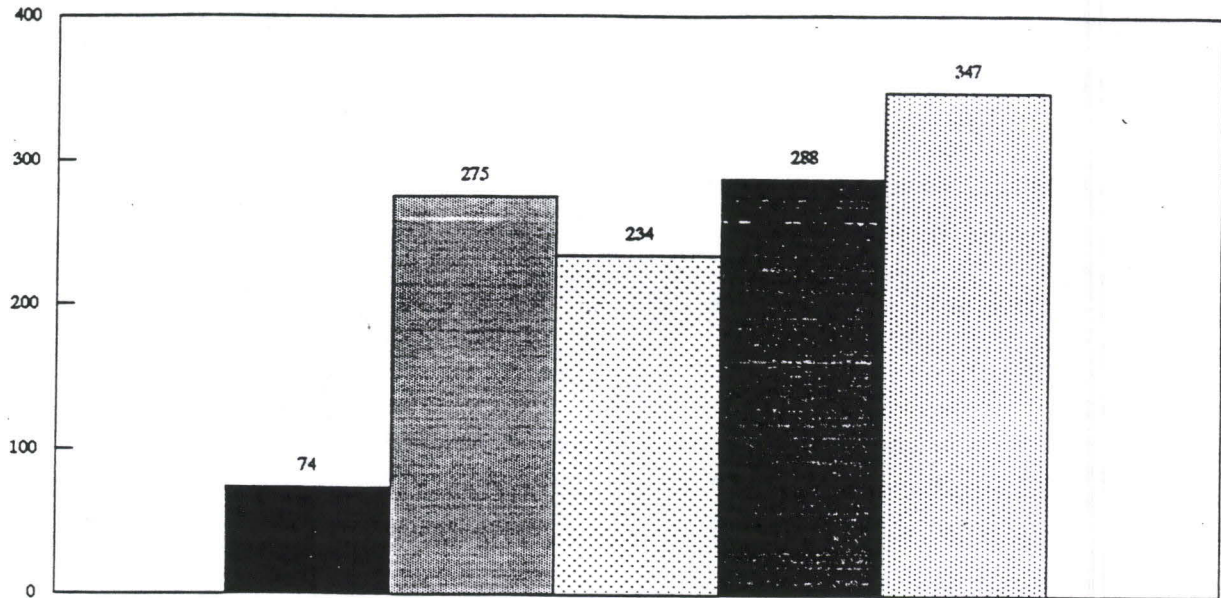
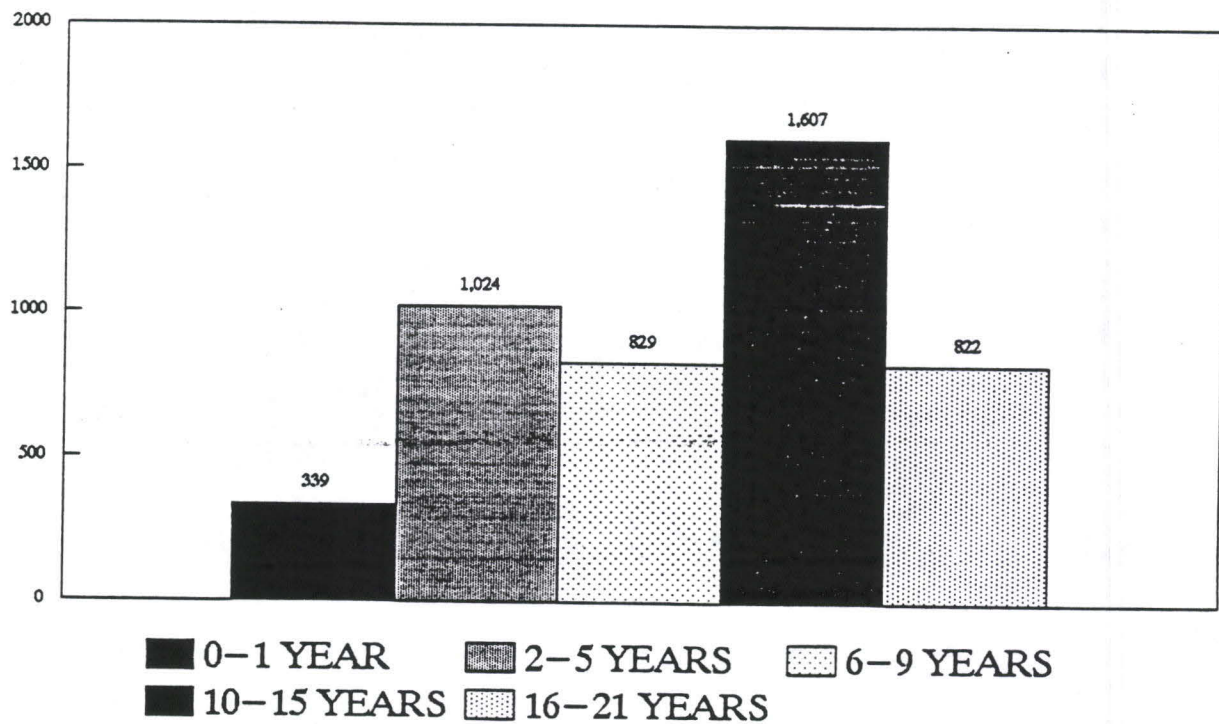


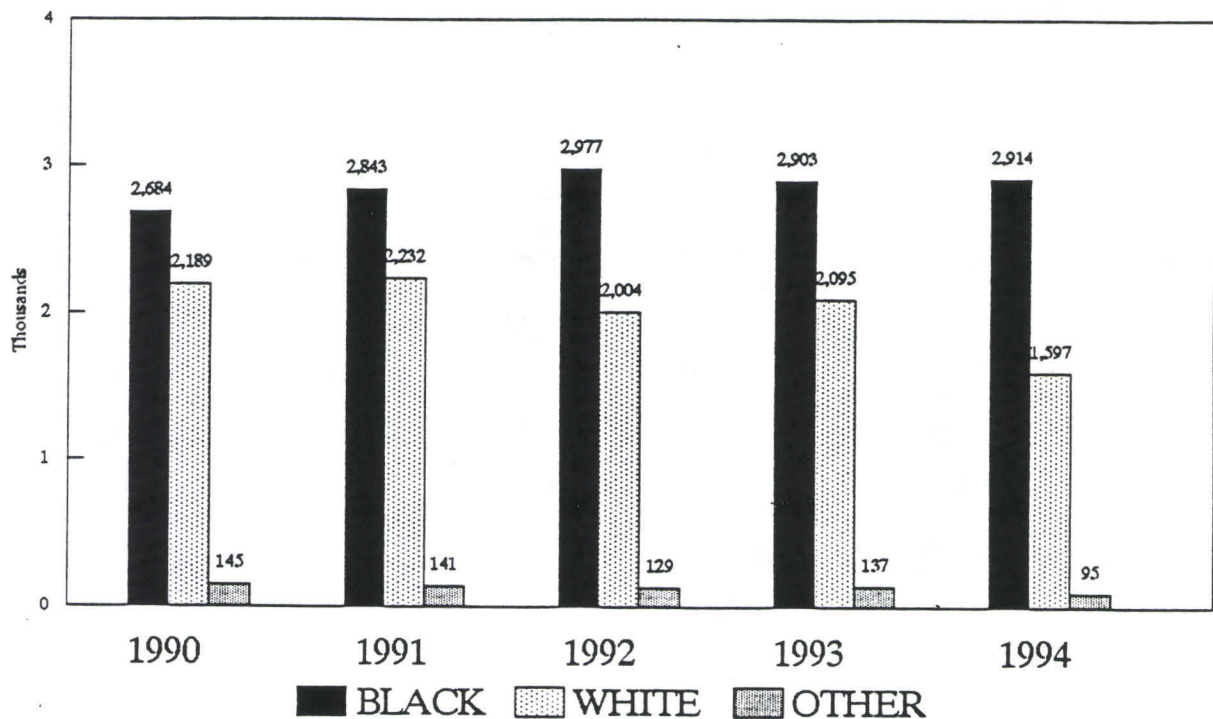
TABLE F
1994 COMPARATIVE DATA
AGES OF CHILDREN REVIEWED - ACTIVE



Statistical Comparison by Race

Table G depicts the race of children who were reviewed and remained active during 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. These statistics show an eight and one-half percent (8.5%) increase in the number of black children active in the system when comparing 1990 and 1994 data. Data for 1994 indicates that sixty-three percent (63%) of the children active in the foster care population are black, thirty-five percent (35%) are white and two percent (2%) are of other races or biracial.

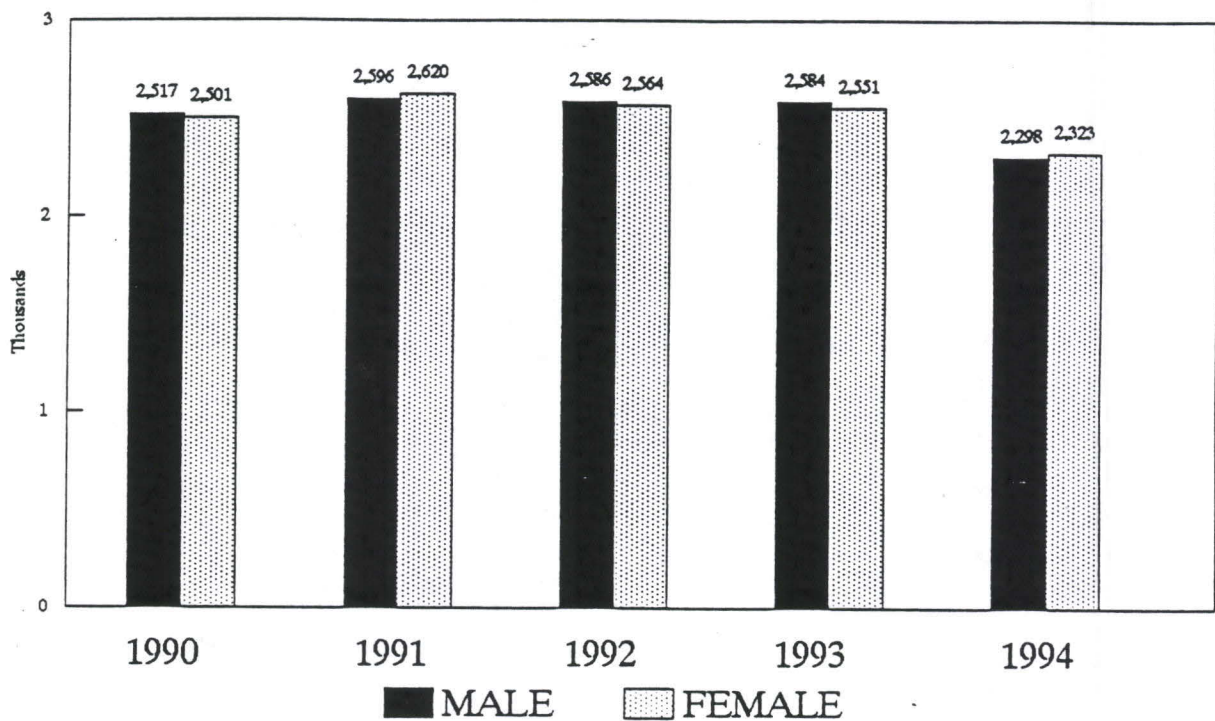
TABLE G
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS BY RACE
ACTIVE CASES REVIEWED
1990 - 1994



Statistical Comparison by Sex

Table H depicts the sex of children who were reviewed and remained active during 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. As in previous years, the percentage of males and females active in the foster care population is close to being evenly balanced.

TABLE H
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS BY SEX
ACTIVE CASES REVIEWED
1990 - 1994



Age Comparisons by Race and Sex

Table I compares percentages of children by race and sex who entered and left foster care by age group. These comparisons indicate that significant differences in percentages by race for children entering or leaving foster care seem to occur for children five years of age or less. From age six through twenty-one, the racial percentages of black and white children entering and leaving care are near equally balanced. Data indicates that the sex of children entering and leaving care in all age groupings also occurs in near equal percentages.

TABLE I
COMPARISON OF SELECTED INDICATORS BY AGE – 1994

AGE	ENTERING FOSTER CARE					LEAVING FOSTER CARE				
	RACE			SEX		RACE			SEX	
	B	W	O	M	F	B	W	O	M	F
ONE OR LESS	71%	26%	3%	53%	47%	65%	27%	7%	51%	49%
2 – 5	63%	36%	1%	59%	41%	60%	38%	2%	50%	50%
6 – 9	58%	41%	2%	52%	48%	59%	40%	1%	55%	45%
10 – 15	57%	41%	3%	43%	57%	46%	51%	4%	48%	51%
16 – 21	49%	44%	7%	46%	54%	48%	50%	2%	47%	54%
TOTAL ENTERING FOSTER CARE 1994: 871										
TOTAL LEAVING FOSTER CARE 1994: 1,218										

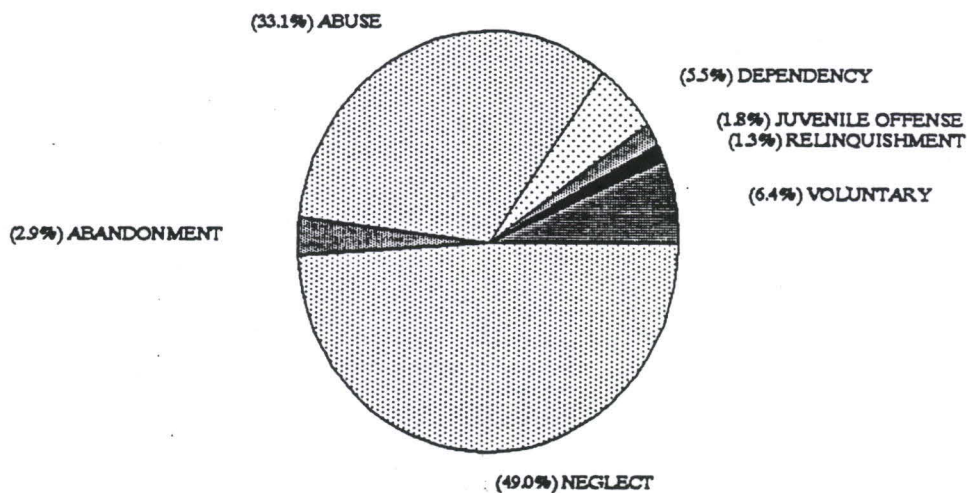
Why are children placed in foster care in South Carolina?

The Foster Care Review Board is legally mandated to review all children who have been in public foster care for a period of more than four consecutive months. Children placed in public foster care become wards of the State through a Family Court action with legal custody being held by the Department of Social Services.

During 1994, children reviewed in South Carolina entered foster care in one of the four following ways: 1) Ninety-one percent (91%) were placed involuntarily through the Family Court as a result of neglect, abuse, abandonment or dependency ; 2) six percent (6%) were voluntarily placed by their custodial parents; 3) two percent (2%) entered as a result of a juvenile offense; and 4) two percent (2%) were voluntarily relinquished for the purpose of adoption.

Table J presents statewide data on the percentage of children placed. The percentage of abused children described in Table J combines the categories of physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.

TABLE J
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASON
CHILDREN ENTERING CARE & REVIEWED
DURING 1994



The individual categories for each type of abuse are designated with associated percentages in Table K. Statistical data generated by the Review Board annually indicates that neglect at forty-nine percent (49%), continues to be the most frequent reason for placement of children in foster care in South Carolina. This is a one percent (1%) increase in the number of children placed due to neglect during 1993. See Table M for specific breakdowns in the categories of neglect tracked by the Review Board.

TABLE K
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS FOR
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE – 1994*

Time Period: 1/1/94–12/31/94

PLACEMENT REASON	FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL PLACEMENTS
1) NEGLECT	427	49.0
2) ABUSE/PHYSICAL	111	12.7
3) THREAT/PHYSICAL	97	11.1
4) ABUSE/SEXUAL	55	6.3
5) THREAT/SEXUAL	19	2.2
6) ABUSE/EMOTIONAL	6	0.7
7) ABANDONMENT	25	2.9
8) DEPENDENCY	48	5.6
9) VOLUNTARY	56	6.4
10) RELINQUISHMENT	11	1.3
11) JUVENILE OFFENSE	16	1.8
TOTALS:	871	100.0

*Reflects only those children reviewed by the Review Board for the first time during 1994.

At what ages do children enter foster care for each placement reason? Which placement reason occurs most often for each age group?

The Review Board studied placement reason data on the 871 children entering the system during 1994 in an effort to determine the age at which children entered foster care for each placement reason and to determine the most frequent reasons for placement for each age group. Review Board data indicates that neglect continues to be the most frequent reason children enter the foster care system, at forty-nine percent (49%).

Table L describes the percentage of children in each age group entering foster care during 1994 due to neglect, dependency, abuse, voluntary placement, abandonment, relinquishment, and juvenile offenses. This data indicates that there is little variance in the percentages of children placed due to neglect in each of the age groups up to fifteen years of age.

TABLE L
COMPARISON OF SELECTED INDICATORS BY AGE - 1994

AGE	PLACEMENT REASON						
	NEGLECT	DEPENDENCY	ABUSE	VOLUNTARY	ABANDONMENT	RELINQUISHMENT	JUVENILE OFFENSE
ONE OR LESS	46%	2%	27%	9%	3%	4%	—
2 - 5	58%	2%	33%	4%	2%	1%	—
6 - 9	56%	5%	29%	3%	2%	1%	—
10 - 15	40%	8%	37%	17%	4%	—	4%
16 - 21	15%	17%	43%	13%	2%	—	9%
TOTAL ENTERING FOSTER CARE 1994: 871							

Table M presents data by age for children entering foster care during 1994 in the five categories of neglect tracked by the Review Board: 1) lack of food, clothing and shelter; 2) lack of supervision; 3) medical neglect; 4) emotional neglect; and 5) educational neglect. Lack of food, clothing and shelter was the most frequently occurring category of neglect for children in each age group.

TABLE M
CATEGORIES OF NEGLECT BY AGE
CHILDREN ENTERING CARE 1994

AGE	LACK OF FOOD/C/S		LACK OF SUPERVISION		THREAT OF NEGLECT		MEDICAL NEGLECT		EDUCATION NEGLECT		EMOTIONAL NEGLECT		TOTAL	
	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%
ONE OR LESS	59	52%	8	7%	37	33%	9	8%	-	-	-	-	113	26%
2 - 5	65	61%	8	7%	23	21%	7	7%	4	4%	-	-	107	25%
6 - 9	60	81%	5	7%	5	7%	3	4%	1	1%	-	-	74	17%
10 - 15	71	56%	14	11%	22	17%	3	2%	15	12%	1	1%	126	30%
16 - 21	2	29%	2	29%	2	29%	-	-	1	14%	-	-	7	2%
TOTAL ENTERING FOSTER CARE 1994: 871 TOTAL ENTERING DUE TO NEGLECT: 427														

Table N presents data by race for children entering foster care during 1994 in the five categories of neglect tracked by the Review Board. This data indicates that lack of food, clothing and shelter was the predominate placement reason in the category of neglect for all races. Data also indicates that white and other race children were more likely to be placed in foster care when there was a threat of neglect than black children.

TABLE N
CATEGORIES OF NEGLECT BY RACE
CHILDREN ENTERING CARE 1994

CATEGORY	BLACK		WHITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%
LACK OF F/C/S	182	62%	67	55%	9	75%	258	60%
LACK OF SUPERVISION	27	9%	10	8%	—	—	37	9%
THREAT OF NEGLECT	57	19%	28	23%	3	25%	88	21%
MEDICAL NEGLECT	15	5%	7	6%	—	—	22	5%
EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT	11	4%	10	8%	—	—	21	5%
EMOTIONAL NEGLECT	1	1%	—	—	—	—	1	0%
TOTAL ENTERING FOSTER CARE 1994: 871								
TOTAL ENTERING DUE TO NEGLECT: 427								

Abuse was the second most frequent placement reason for children entering care during 1994. Thirty-three percent (33%) of children placed entered due to abuse. Review Board data indicates that physical abuse and the threat of physical abuse were the higher percentage subcategories of abuse for children in each age group.

Table O presents data by age for children entering foster care during 1994 in the five categories of abuse tracked by the Review Board: 1) emotional abuse; 2) physical abuse; 3) sexual abuse; 4) threat of physical abuse; and 5) threat of sexual abuse.

TABLE O
CATEGORIES OF ABUSE BY AGE
CHILDREN ENTERING CARE 1994

AGE	PHYSICAL ABUSE		THREAT OF PHYSICAL ABUSE		SEXUAL ABUSE		THREAT OF SEXUAL ABUSE		EMOTIONAL ABUSE		TOTAL	
	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%
ONE OR LESS	30	56%	24	44%	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	19%
2 — 5	30	50%	19	31%	5	8%	7	11%	—	—	61	21%
6 — 9	15	42%	7	19%	11	31%	3	8%	—	—	36	13%
10 — 15	28	24%	38	32%	38	32%	9	8%	4	4%	117	41%
16 — 21	9	45%	8	40%	1	5%	—	—	2	10%	20	6%
TOTAL ENTERING FOSTER CARE 1994: 871 TOTAL ENTERING DUE TO ABUSE: 288												

Table P presents data by race for children entering foster care during 1994 in the five categories of abuse tracked by the Review Board. This data indicates that black children were more frequently placed due to physical abuse or due to the threat of sexual abuse and white children were more frequently placed due to sexual abuse.

TABLE P
CATEGORIES OF ABUSE BY RACE
CHILDREN ENTERING CARE 1994

CATEGORY	BLACK		WHITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%
Physical Abuse	64	58%	46	41%	1	1%	111	39%
Sexual Abuse	19	35%	35	64%	1	2%	55	19%
Threat Physical	49	51%	44	45%	4	4%	97	34%
Threat Sexual	11	58%	7	37%	1	5%	19	6%
Emotional Abuse	3	50%	2	33%	1	17%	6	2%
TOTAL ENTERING FOSTER CARE 1994: 871								
TOTAL ENTERING CARE DUE TO ABUSE: 288								

Table Q presents data by age for children entering foster care during 1994 in each of the remaining five categories tracked as placement reasons by the Review Board. These categories each stand alone and are not broken down into specific subsets as are the more frequently occurring categories of abuse and neglect. The categories presented in Table Q are: 1) abandonment; 2) dependency; 3) relinquishment 4) juvenile offense; and 5) voluntary placements.

TABLE Q
OTHER PLACEMENT CATEGORIES BY AGE
CHILDREN ENTERING CARE 1994

AGE	ABANDONMENT		DEPENDENCY		RELINQUISHMENT		JUVENILE OFFENSE		VOLUNTARY		TOTAL	
	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%
ONE OR LESS	7	18%	5	13%	9	23%	—	—	18	46%	39	25%
2 — 5	4	27%	3	20%	1	6%	—	—	7	47%	15	10%
6 — 9	2	15%	6	46%	1	8%	—	—	4	31%	13	8%
10 — 15	11	16%	26	37%	—	—	12	17%	21	30%	70	45%
16 — 21	1	5%	8	42%	—	—	4	21%	6	32%	19	12%
TOTAL ENTERING FOSTER CARE 1994: 871												
TOTAL ENTERING IN OTHER PLACEMENT CATEGORIES: 156												

How many children in the foster care system are affected by substance abuse ?

The number of substance abuse related placements of children in the foster care system has been tracked statistically by the Review Board since 1990. Substance abuse continues to be a significant factor in the reasons children are placed in foster care in 1994.

Review Board data for 1994 indicates that substance abuse was a contributing factor in the placements for 372 (43%) of the 871 children who entered foster care and were reviewed for the first time during 1994. Data on the 4625 children who were active in the Review Board system during 1994 indicates that alcohol or other drugs contributed to the reason for placement for 52% of this population.

Data presented in Tables R, S, T, U, and V describes the children entering foster care during 1994 whose placements were effected by substance abuse. The percentage of the population entering foster care and effected by substance abuse for 1994 (43%) remains the same as the overall percentage of children entering care and effected by substance abuse in 1993 even though there was a decrease in the total number of children entering foster care in 1994 when compared to 1993 data.

TABLE R
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS
STATEWIDE PLACEMENTS RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE
1992 - 1994

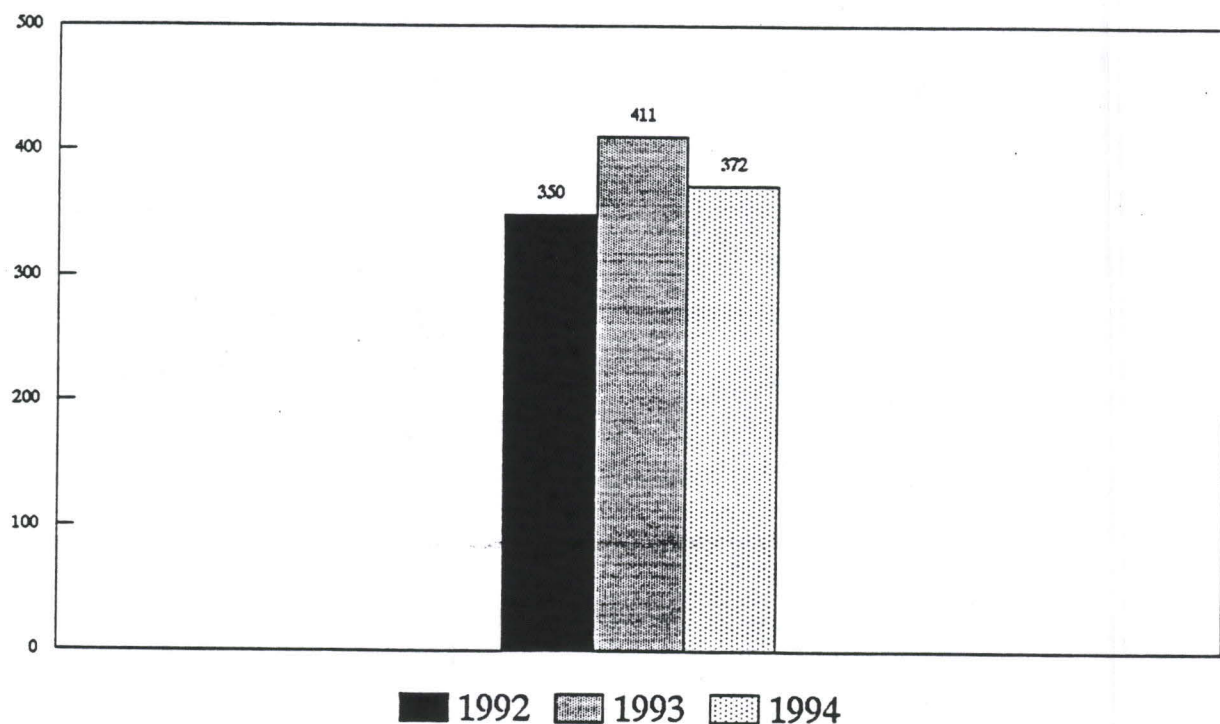


TABLE S

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS BY SELECT CATEGORIES
STATEWIDE PLACEMENTS RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE
CHILDREN ENTERING CARE
1992 - 1994

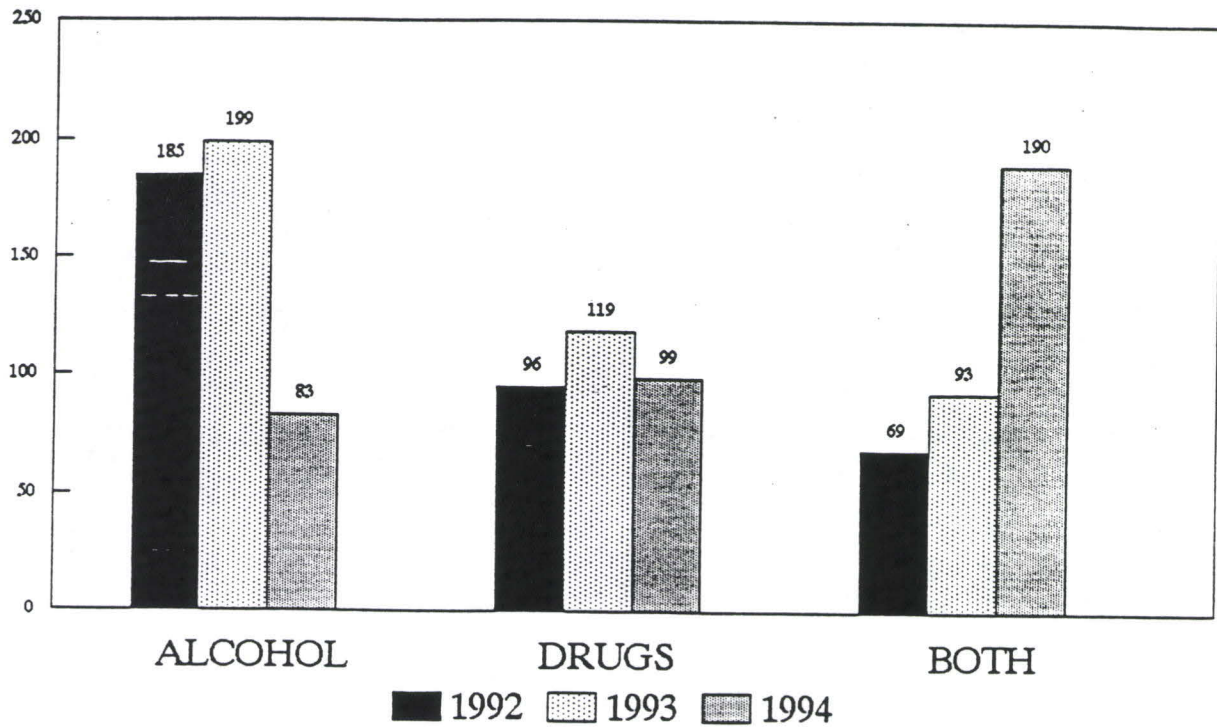


TABLE T

STATEWIDE PLACEMENTS RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS BY RACE
JANUARY - DECEMBER 1994

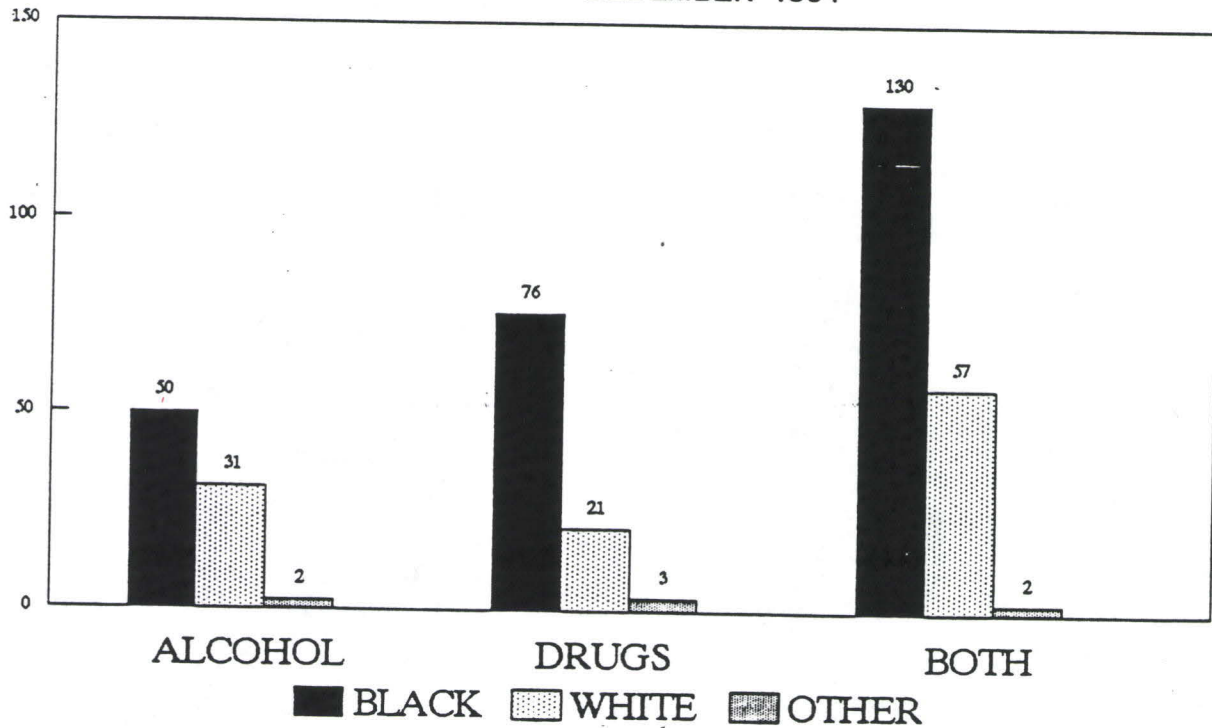


TABLE U

STATEWIDE PLACEMENTS RELATED
TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE BY SEX
JANUARY - DECEMBER 1994

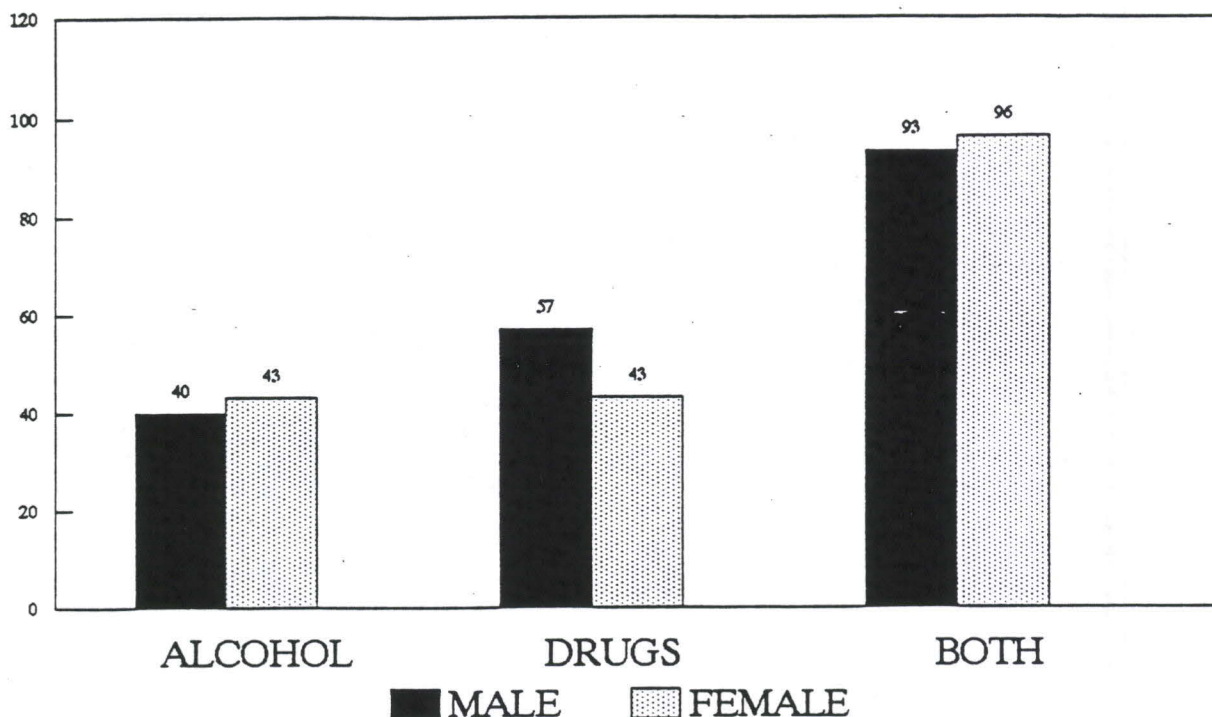
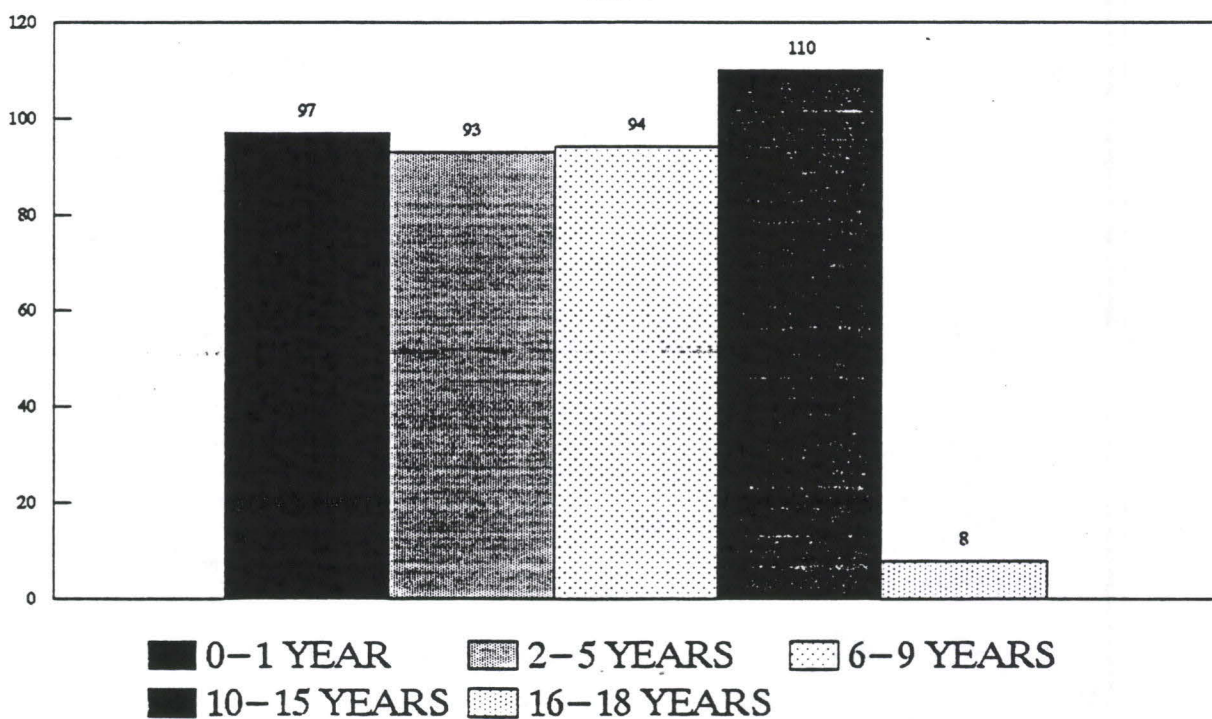


TABLE V

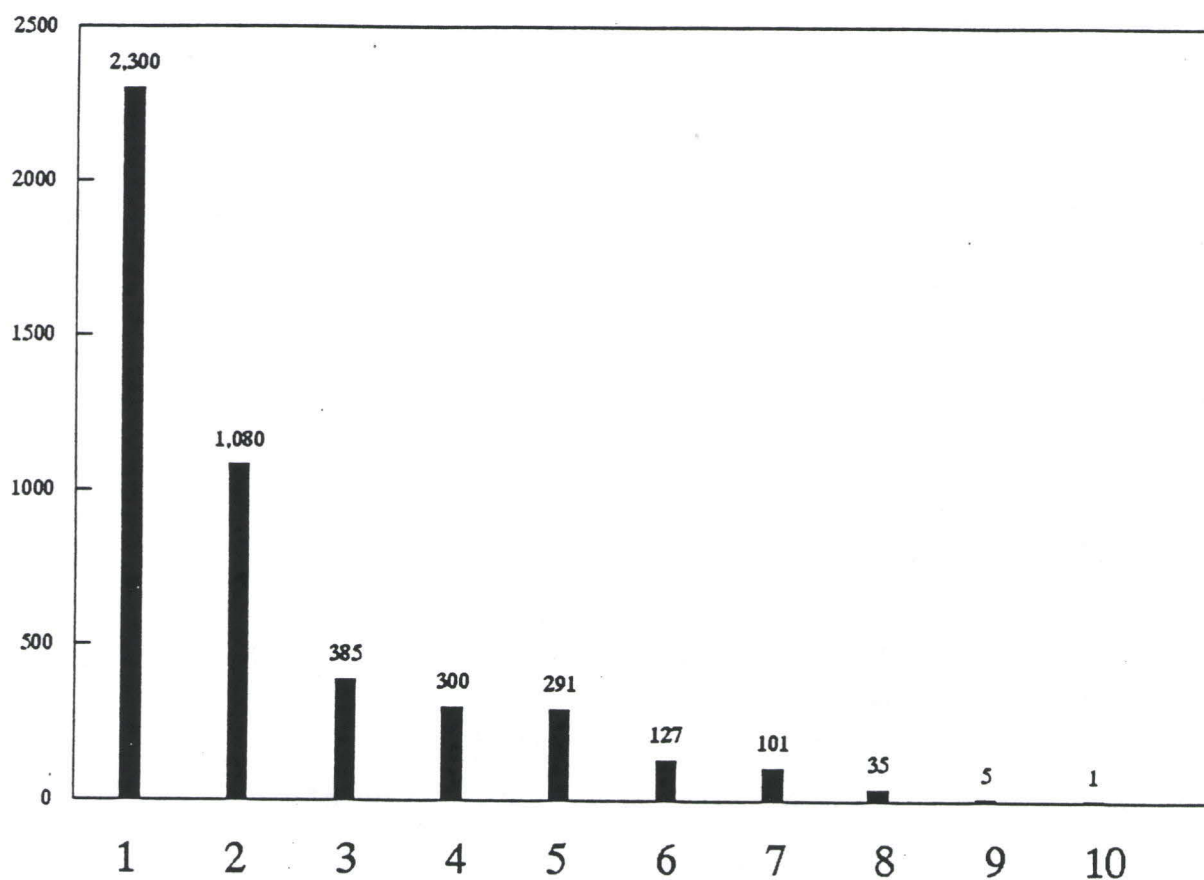
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS
STATEWIDE PLACEMENTS BY AGE
RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE
1994



What kind of foster care placements did children experience?

Children are placed in a number of different foster care placements. Table W describes the number of children reviewed during 1994 in each type of placement. This data reflects children who were reviewed during 1994 and whose cases remained active as of December 31, 1994.

TABLE W
1994 COMPARATIVE DATA
STATEWIDE PLACEMENT LOCATION – ACTIVE CASES



PLACEMENT TYPE:

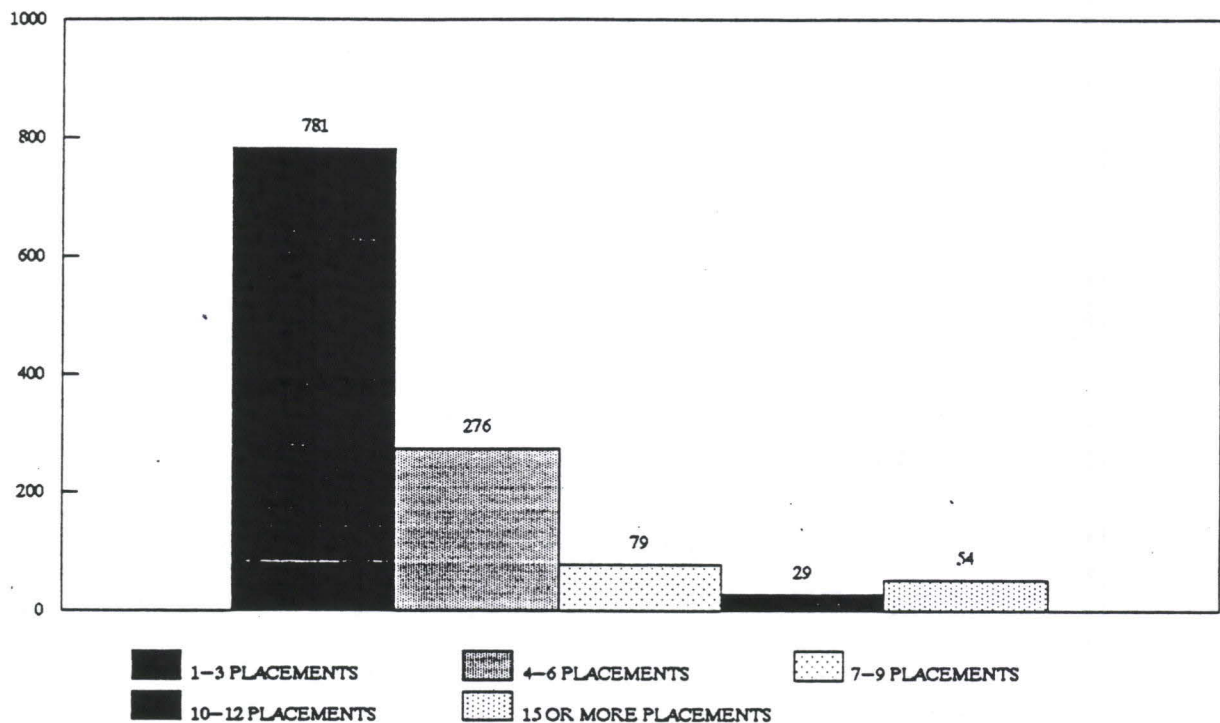
- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | DSS FOSTER HOME | 6 | NATURAL PARENT |
| 2 | THERAPEUTIC PLACEMENT | 7 | RUN AWAY |
| 3 | INSTITUTION/GROUP HOME | 8 | DJJ |
| 4 | RELATIVE | 9 | OTHER |
| 5 | ADOPTION PLACEMENT | 10 | ADULT CORRECTION |

How many placements did children leaving care in 1994 experience?

Children removed from their families and placed in foster care frequently experience more than one placement while in care. Research shows the initial placement in foster care is extremely traumatic for a child and additional moves once in the foster care system can be very detrimental to the child's development. The younger the child, the more critical the need for stability in one home becomes.

Table X compares the number of placements experienced by children reviewed during 1994. This data indicates that the majority of children in foster care experience between one and three different placements while in foster care.

TABLE X
NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS STATEWIDE – CLOSED CASES
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS – 1994



TOTAL CHILDREN LEAVING CARE 1994: 1,218

What do local Review Boards recommend for these children?

Local Review Boards issue a written recommendation for a permanent placement plan on each case reviewed. These recommendations are made after the Board has carefully considered all facts presented by the responsible caseworkers and interested parties attending the review. Table Y describes the frequency, type and percentage for each of the eleven recommendations issued by local Review Boards on cases reviewed during 1994.

TABLE Y
STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS - 1994

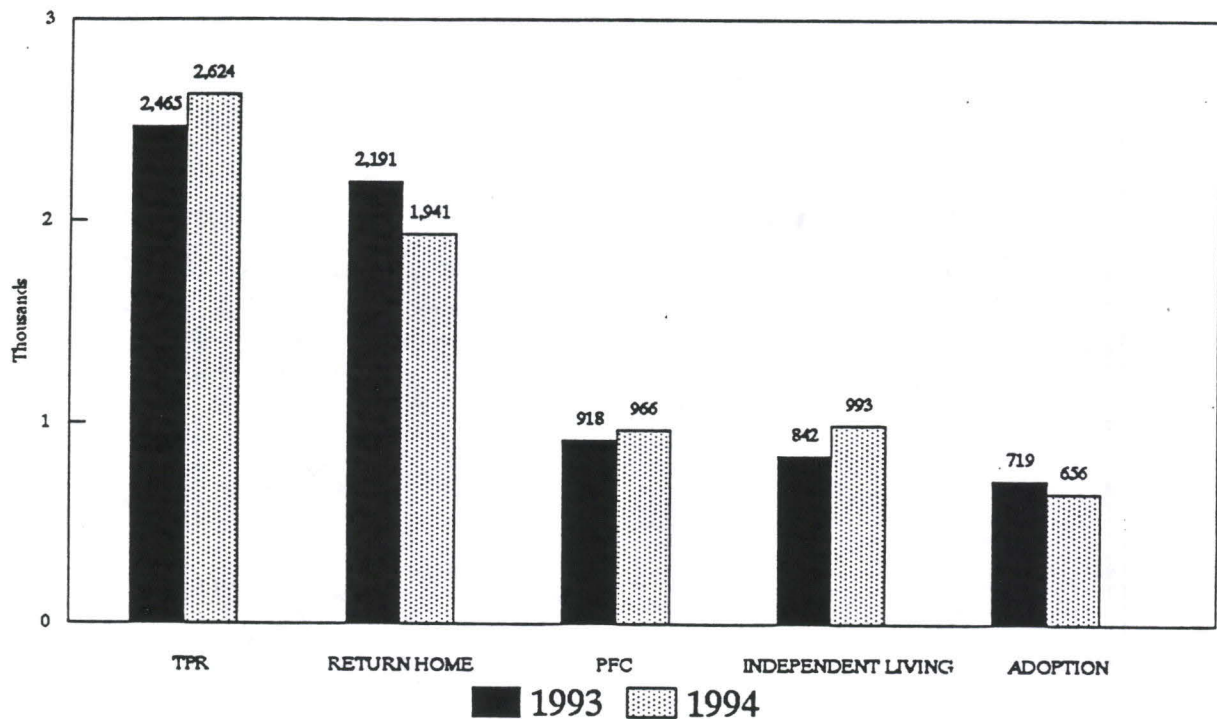
Time Period: 1/1/94 - 12/31/94

RECOMMENDATION	FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
1) TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS	2,624	32.6
2) RETURN TO PARENT	1,941	24.1
3) PERMANENT FOSTER CARE	966	12.0
4) INDEPENDENT LIVING	993	12.4
5) ADOPTION	656	8.2
6) RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	158	2.0
7) CASE CONTINUED	273	3.4
8) RELATIVE PLACEMENT	324	4.0
9) PERMANENT GROUP HOME	24	0.3
10) NO REVIEW	78	1.0
11) OTHER	3	0.0
TOTALS:	8,040	100.0

Table Z compares the frequency of the five plans most recommended by local Review Boards during 1993 and 1994. Data provided in Table Z when compared to 1993 data indicates a six percent (6%) decrease in the number of recommendations for termination of parental rights, a thirteen percent (13%) decrease in the number of recommendations for return home, a nine percent (9%) decrease in the number of recommendations for adoption, a five percent (5%) increase in the number of recommendations for permanent foster care, and an eighteen percent (18%) increase in the number of recommendations for independent living.

Cases in which Review Boards were unable to issue recommendations because workers were not present or prepared for review increased by seventy-eight percent (78%) when comparing 1993 and 1994 figures.

TABLE Z
STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1993 - 94

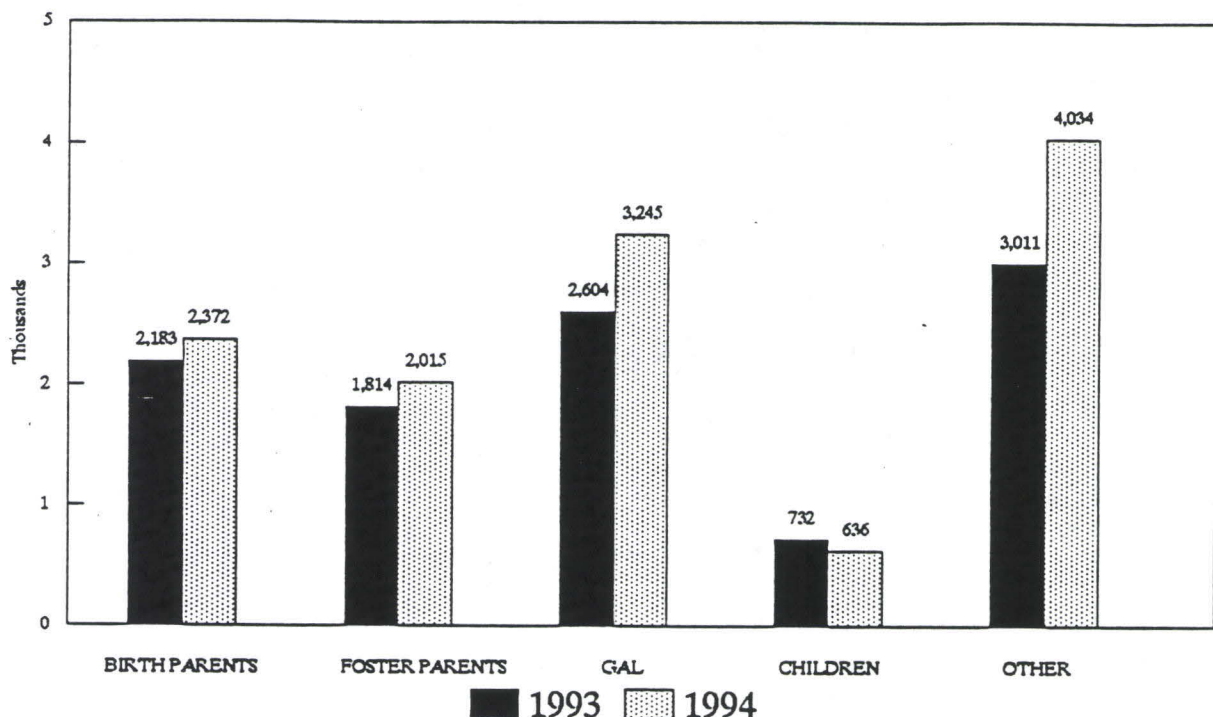


How many interested parties attend reviews?

Review Board regulations require that written notice be sent three weeks prior to the scheduled review to the following individuals at their last known address: both birth/legal parents; legal guardians; current Guardians ad Litem; both foster parents; treatment professionals involved with the foster child and/or family; and foster children ten years of age or older. These notices are distributed by the agency/institution responsible for presenting the case to the Review Board. Regulations also specify that each of these parties should be encouraged to attend the review. Review Board data indicates that sixty-six percent (66%) of the reviews conducted during 1994 had parties attending. A total of twelve thousand, three hundred and two (12,302) interested parties attended reviews.

Table AA compares the number of interested parties attending reviews in 1993 and 1994. The 1994 attendance totals reflect an eleven percent (11%) increase in attendance compared to attendance at reviews in 1993. The attendance by all interested parties provide the Review Board with important information used to make recommendations.

TABLE AA
PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS STATEWIDE
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1993 - 94



Where do children go when they leave foster care?

One thousand two hundred and eighteen (1,218) of the children in the Review Board system left care in 1994. Forty-one percent (41%) of these children were returned to their parents. Twenty percent (20%) were legally adopted, sixteen percent (16%) had legal custody transferred to relatives or other individuals and eighteen percent (18%) were closed out of the RB data system due to emancipation. Five percent (5%) of the children leaving the system during 1994 left for other reasons than the four categories tracked by the Review Board.

Table BB compares the number of children leaving foster care in 1994 in each category. Data continues to reflect that the majority of children who leave the foster care system are returned home to their birth parents.

TABLE BB
STATE CLOSING REASONS
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS - 1994

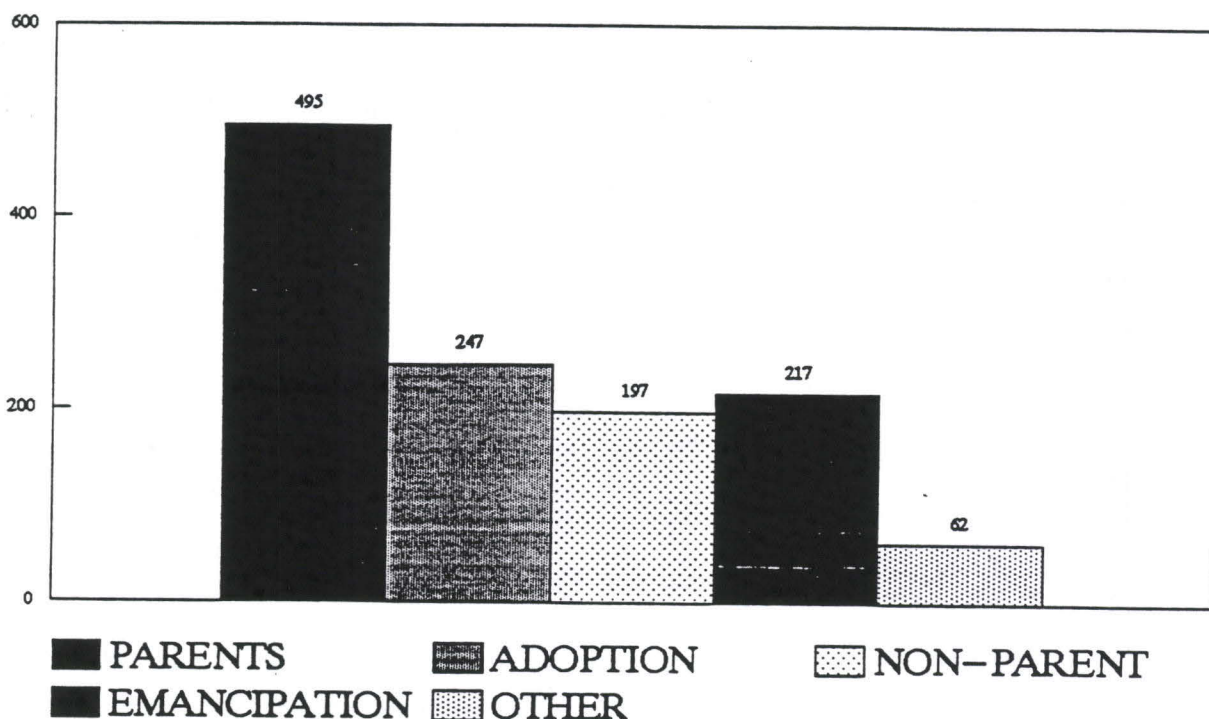


Table CC presents data by age for children closed in the Review Board data system during 1994. This data indicates that the largest number and highest percentage of children leaving foster care during 1994 were between 16 and 21 and closed due to emancipation, not due to the completion of a permanent plan.

TABLE CC
CLOSING REASON BY AGE
COMPARATIVE DATA - 1994

AGE	PARENT		ADOPTION		EMANCIPATION		NON-PARENT		OTHER		TOTAL	
	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%
ONE OR LESS	37	30%	43	38%	-	-	29	25%	7	7%	113	9%
2 - 5	125	46%	90	33%	-	-	51	19%	5	2%	271	22%
6 - 9	111	49%	66	29%	-	-	39	17%	8	4%	224	18%
10 - 15	167	55%	46	15%	4	1%	56	19%	28	9%	301	25%
16 - 21	58	19%	2	1%	213	69%	22	7%	14	5%	309	26%
TOTAL LEAVING FOSTER CARE 1994: 1,218												

Table DD presents data by race for children closed in the Review Board data system during 1994. This data indicates that a higher percentage of black children left care to be placed in adoptive homes than did white or other race children. Also, a significantly higher percentage of black children went to placements with relatives than did white or other race children.

TABLE DD
CLOSING REASON BY RACE
COMPARATIVE DATA - 1994

CATEGORY	BLACK		WHITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%
PARENT	235	48%	244	49%	15	3%	494	41%
ADOPTION	150	61%	87	35%	10	4%	247	20%
EMANCIPATION	107	49%	104	48%	7	3%	218	18%
NON-PARENT	137	70%	56	28%	3	2%	197	16%
OTHER	20	32%	41	66%	1	2%	62	5%
TOTAL LEAVING FOSTER CARE 1994: 1,218								

Table EE compares the reason children left foster care during 1994 with the reason for their placement in foster care. Significant findings in this data indicates that forty-five percent (45%) of the children leaving care who were placed in foster care due to neglect returned to their birth/legal parents. This is a six percent (6%) increase when compared to 1993 data. Forty-six percent (46%) of the children leaving foster care who were placed in foster care due to abuse returned to their birth/legal parents. This data could indicate that if family preservation services had been in place at the time placement in foster care was being considered, some of these families may have been better served by allowing the child to remain in the home with intense services provided to the family. This use of family preservation services and dollars could have prevented the trauma of foster care for the child and provided more beneficial and the most cost effective services to the family unit.

This data also indicates that forty percent (40%) of the children leaving care in 1994 who were abandoned and forty-nine percent (49%) of the children leaving care during 1994 who were placed in care due to a juvenile offense, remained in the system until they reached the age of majority. Prior to their reaching the age of 18, no permanent plan was achieved for the children who entered and left care in these two groups.

TABLE EE
STATEWIDE CLOSING REASON BY PLACEMENT REASON
COMPARATIVE DATA - 1994

REASON	RETURN TO PARENT		ADOPTION		NON-PARENT		EMANCIPATION		OTHER		TOTAL	
	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%	FREQ.	%
NEGLECT	269	45%	133	38%	111	18%	75	12%	14	2%	602	49%
ABUSE	170	46%	41	33%	62	17%	87	24%	7	2%	367	30%
DEPENDENCY	21	25%	24	29%	7	8%	24	29%	7	8%	83	7%
RELINQUISHMENT	-	-	24	29%	-	-	2	8%	-	-	26	2%
ABANDONED	3	15%	3	29%	6	30%	8	40%	-	-	20	2%
VOLUNTARY	21	24%	22	25%	7	8%	7	8%	30	34%	87	7%
JUVENILE OFF	9	27%	-	-	4	12%	16	49%	4	12%	33	3%
TOTAL LEAVING FOSTER CARE 1994: 1,218												



How long do children stay in the foster care system?

A major goal of foster care review is to achieve a permanent placement for a child as soon as possible; therefore, it is important to measure the amount of time a child spends in care. 1994 data shows that the average length of time that a child spends in foster care decreased from 3.10 years in 1988 to 2.9 years in 1994.

Do children return to foster care once they leave?

There is very little longitudinal data to document what happens to children once they leave the foster care system. Review Board data for 1994 indicates that thirteen percent (13%) of the children who remained active in the system as of December 31, 1994 had left and returned to foster care at least one time.

Does citizen review help children who are in foster care?

The citizen review system has proven to be effective in bringing attention to the many barriers which prolong a child's stay in foster care. Citizen review systems nationwide are committed to working to eliminate these barriers to continue to reduce the amount of time children must spend in out of home placement. As long as citizens who are members of the local community are involved in the child review process, there will be continued efforts to improve and enhance the foster care system.

FE